



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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October 22, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Beginning on Monday, October 25, positive COVID-19 cases will no longer be reported via a letter sent to all parents when cases are reported. Instead, a COVID report will be posted on our website www.berlinschools.org. This report will provide information for the week, by school, and will be updated daily with the positive cases reported as of 3:30 p.m., the date the individuals were last in school and the number of individuals in quarantine each day. The report will be sent to all parents, via SchoolMessenger, each Friday. (A copy of the report is attached.)

Yesterday and today, we were notified that a total of five more members of our school community have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected people have been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for 10 days and have been provided with additional instructions to follow prior to returning to school. Family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine and get tested.

McGee School reported three cases and the individuals were last in school on 10/14, 10/15, and 10/20. Griswold School reported one case and the individual was last in school on 10/15. Willard School reported two cases and the individuals were last in school on 10/18 and 10/20. Anyone who is considered a "close contact" with these individuals has been contacted or will be contacted by school or local health officials and provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- ☐ Fever (100° Fahrenheit or higher)
- ☐ Chills or shaking chills
- ☐ Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

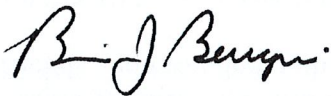
Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see *Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts*, available here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators/Addendums-and-FAQs>

We are closely monitoring this situation and working with the Central Connecticut Health District and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Benigni".

Brian Benigni
Superintendent of Schools

BJB/db
Attachment



COVID UPDATE – Week of October 25-29, 2021

School	Total new cases reported		Date last in school	Total in quarantine
Berlin High School and Central Connecticut Transition Academy	Monday			
	Tuesday			
	Wednesday			
	Thursday			
	Friday			
McGee Middle School	Monday			
	Tuesday			
	Wednesday			
	Thursday			
	Friday			
Griswold Elementary School	Monday			
	Tuesday			
	Wednesday			
	Thursday			
	Friday			
Hubbard Elementary School	Monday			
	Tuesday			
	Wednesday			
	Thursday			
	Friday			
Willard Elementary School	Monday			
	Tuesday			
	Wednesday			
	Thursday			
	Friday			