

# NEW BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 12, 2021

Dear New Brighton Area School District Families,

First and foremost, please accept our thanks for your continued support, patience, and flexibility through all we have faced this school year. We announced at our Thanksgiving break that Beaver County was entering the “substantial” designation of community transmission of Covid19, as determined by the PA Department of Health (PADOH). Beaver County has continued to remain in the substantial level of community transmission and is now seeing an increase in Covid19 rates across all measurable categories. For the one-week reporting period ending January 7, 2021, Beaver County had a positivity rate of 13.5% and saw 637 new cases. As a point of comparison, during the last week of October, Beaver County experienced a positivity rate of 2.3% with 51 new cases. However, early data being reported this week may indicate a downward trend. We will know more at the close of the week when data is updated by PADOH.

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to continue with full remote learning through Friday, January 22, 2021. While we were hopeful to return to in-person learning next week, the rise in cases across Beaver County and the health and safety of our students, staff, and the community, have made it necessary for us to continue in the full virtual environment. We are hopeful that this short delay will allow us to then have a greater likelihood of consistently remaining open, once we return.

## **Return to In-Person Instruction**

**Elementary School** – In-Person instruction will begin on Monday, January 25, 2021 following the same model that was in place prior to Thanksgiving.

**Middle School** – In-Person instruction will begin on Monday, February 1, 2021. We hope to follow the same model that was in place prior to Thanksgiving, but will be monitoring County health data to ensure that is the best option for our students, staff, and the community. We will communicate an update on our model by the end of the day on Monday, January 25, 2021.

**High School** – In-Person instruction will begin on Monday, February 1, 2021. We are monitoring the County health data to determine if we will return in the A/B Hybrid model we used previously, or if we will make a transition and welcome our students back in-person more frequently. We will communicate an update on our model by the end of the day on Monday, January 25, 2021.

\*Families who do not wish to return will have the option to remain virtual, as they had during our return to in-person learning in the fall. We will again ask that families making that decision then plan to remain virtual until we reach natural breaks, such as, but not limited to, the end of a grading period, a school holiday, etc. We will work with all families if your situation changes, however we want to avoid frequent transitions from in-person to virtual. Please contact your school Principal if you have questions or would like to discuss options.

### **Closure Decisions Upon Returning**

Upon our return, the PDE and PADOH have released a Closure Matrix which we are mandated to follow. This matrix will help guide any decisions on temporary school closures and/or timelines for reopening. The NBMS and NBHS are considered “small” schools and the NBES is considered a “medium” school. You can view the matrix by [clicking here](#). In the event that a school is closed, all affected students will participate in a full virtual model for the days in which we are closed.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings continue to be required at all times, including while on the bus. Please contact the School Nurse if you have any questions.

### **Reporting Illnesses to the School Nurse and the Daily Symptom Check**

It is very important that our information regarding positive Covid19 cases among our students and staff is as accurate as possible. If your child tests positive for Covid19 or is sick and exhibiting Covid19 symptoms, please let the School Nurse know. We ask that even during Remote Learning, if your child tests positive for Covid19, please inform our School Nurse. Additionally, please remember to review the [Daily Symptom Check](#) each day before your child(ren) leave for school. The [Daily Symptom Check](#) tool can be found on our website under “Return to School 2020-2021” and then “Health” or by [clicking here](#).

### **Covid19 Dashboard**

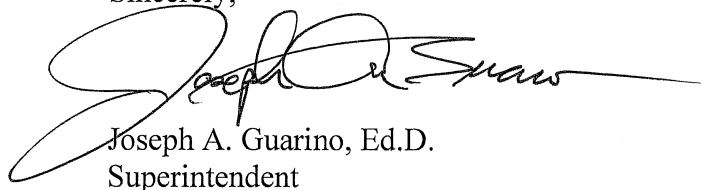
We have started a Covid19 Dashboard on our website and moving forward we will update it daily. This will serve as our means to communicate any positive Covid19 cases within the District. The Covid19 Dashboard can be found on our website under “Return to School 2020-2021” and “Covid Tracker” or by [clicking here](#).

### **Food Service**

Free meals continue to be available for all children under the age of 18. Weekly pick-up is available on Mondays and walk-up meal pick-up is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Jocelyn Haskins at 724-843-1795 x366 or [jhaskins@nbasd.org](mailto:jhaskins@nbasd.org) if you have questions or would like additional details. Upon our return to school, all meals will continue to be free for all students. Those students remaining virtual will have the ability to pick-up free meals. We will communicate details next week.

We are continuing to make every effort to keep the students, staff and community of NBASD safe and to do our part in mitigating the effects of Covid19 on our community. Once again, we thank you for your patience and we hope you know that these decisions are not easy. Our goal is to have our students learning with us and we continue to work to find ways to do so in a safe and consistent manner within our school environment.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent