

NEW BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 18, 2020

Dear New Brighton Area School District Families,

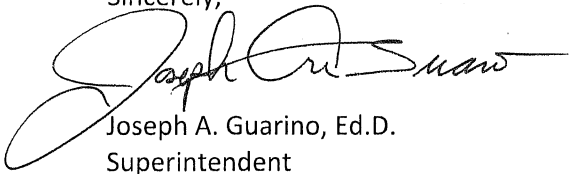
This week the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) determined that Beaver County's level of community transmission of Covid19 is now "substantial." Beaver County's current rate of 162 new positive cases per 100,000 residents over the previous seven (7) days exceeds the PADOH incidence rate for viral spread of Covid-19 per 100,000 residents. Additionally, the County's current rate of positive tests is at 8.3%, which exceeds the statewide targeted rate of 5%. In conjunction with the release of this information, school leaders throughout Beaver County, along with our colleagues in Allegheny County, met virtually with the PA Department of Education (PDE) and members of the Allegheny County Department of Health to discuss this data.

The PADOH and PDE currently recommends that following a second week of similar data within the substantial rating, districts move to a Full Virtual educational platform. The PADOH and PDE recommend that this online learning model remain in place until Beaver County data moves out of the substantial rating for two consecutive weeks. Following two consecutive weeks of low or moderate spread ratings, the PADOH and PDE would recommend that districts return to a hybrid or in-person learning model.

While Beaver County has not yet reached two consecutive weeks of a substantial rating, we expect that this week will close with data that meets the substantial rating and therefore reaches the two consecutive weeks of substantial community spread. As a school district we have implemented many steps to prevent school based spread and we are seeing great success in the measures we have put in place, yet we recognize our place within the community that regardless of school spread or community spread, we are one cohesive group working together for the education and growth of all of our children. We have successfully mitigated school based spread but as we actively monitor local health data and meet with the experts, we recognize the impact community spread and substantial levels of spread can have on our students, staff, and the community.

Therefore, we wanted to provide you with this information so you can begin to reconsider your contingency plans for your children with the possibility that we may have to return to full virtual learning in the coming weeks. While no announcement is presently being issued, we understand the challenges that are placed upon families when their children are home on virtual learning and we wanted to provide advance warning so you have the time to plan in the event that we must make an announcement about a return to full virtual learning. We do not take these decisions lightly and we will continue to focus on the best interest of our students, staff and the community as we gather data, monitor our environment, and make decisions for the future. We appreciate your support, patience and flexibility during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.
Superintendent