



Holmes, Donna &lt;dholmes@palisadesd.org&gt;

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## Community Message for Monday, November 30, 2020

1 message

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**Dr. Bridget O'Connell** <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 1:05 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

**Dear Palisades Families,**

I hope you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday in whatever form it may have taken this year.

There are several updates I wanted to provide to you regarding travel, COVID notifications, the district dashboard and a PDE Attestation Form.

### Travel Restrictions:

Updates have been issued by the PA Department of Health clarifying that the COVID/quarantine restrictions do not apply to:

- individuals who are returning to the Commonwealth after traveling outside of PA for less than 24 hours
- children under the age of 12
- individuals traveling to comply with a court order, such as child custody, or other exemptions issued by guidance

View the amended [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation Relating to Travel](#).

### COVID Notifications:

As a reminder, beginning last Monday, November 23rd, notifications concerning positive student/employee cases are only emailed to the families that have a student attending that particular building.

### District Dashboard:

The purpose of this dashboard is to provide a district-wide view of when building specific notifications have been issued regarding positive student cases. In addition, it has been updated to include the following highlighted information:

What are the steps in the notification process if a student or staff member tests COVID positive?

1. The district will receive confirmation of a positive case from the Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH).
2. The district will conduct case investigations to identify close contacts and report the investigation findings to the BCDH. This is why assigned seats in classrooms, cafeterias and on the bus is so important. These case investigations are conducted whenever a case is reported including weekends, holidays, after school hours, etc.
3. Those individuals in close contact with the COVID positive person will be contacted directly. Close contact means less than 6' for more than 15 minutes.
4. The district will send out notification that a positive case was confirmed in a building with a reminder that if a family was not contacted directly it is because their child was not exposed.
5. Notifications will go out Monday through Friday except when offices are closed.

6. Once the notification has gone out, the dashboard will be updated. (For example, if a positive case is received Friday night but notification does not go out until Monday afternoon, the Friday case will appear as a notification on Monday.)

**Attestation Form:**

Last week Dr. Levine (PA DOH Secretary of Health) and Noe Ortega (PDE Secretary of Education) issued an Attestation Mandate for Schools that are in a county identified with a substantial level of transmission. By signing this form, Palisades has agreed to the following:

1. That all or some of the students of Palisades are currently receiving in person instruction.
2. That we have read and will comply with the updated masking order from November 18th including necessary exceptions and guidance.
  1. The updated masking order and guidance can be found here <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>
3. We have read and will follow the updated Recommendations on Pre-K to 12 Schools when COVID positive students and staff are identified. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/default.aspx>

More specifically, if it becomes necessary to close a building in the Palisades School District it will occur based on the following language as noted on the PDE website:

“When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school setting, public health staff from DOH or the County or Municipal Health Department (CMHD) will work with school administrators to provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, and closing certain areas of the school or entire school buildings if necessary. When entire school buildings are recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. Schools within a CMHD jurisdiction should work with their local health department when responding to cases of COVID-19 in a school setting. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.”

Throughout the first marking period, we have worked with the Bucks County Department of Health on case investigations and contract tracing. We have also continued to clean our classrooms and offices with disinfectants on a daily basis. We will continue these practices to mitigate the spread of COVID 19 in our buildings and keep our schools open. If a building needs to be closed due to COVID, you will receive a phone call just as you would for a snow day or other school emergency.

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and students.

Warm regards,



**Dr. Bridget O'Connell**

**Superintendent**

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