



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

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## Community Message - Friday, November 13, 2020

1 message

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

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

Dear Palisades Community,

During this week, we have released several notices of COVID positive cases in our district. Certainly it is disconcerting to receive these notifications, although remaining informed is important to our community. Additionally, we will continue to update our district's COVID dashboard when we are notified of a positive case of a student that attends the Palisades School District. You can access the dashboard by clicking on [this link](#).

To date, the cases of which you have been notified are not as a result of in school spread; the individuals who tested positive were in contact with infected persons outside of the school environment. Likewise, in my regular communication with Dr. David Damsker (Director of the Bucks County Department of Health), he stated that the instances of in-school spread throughout the county is extremely low. Just this week, Dr. Damsker released a letter to all 13 Bucks County Superintendents (see attached below my signature). In this letter, Dr. Damsker writes, "The Bucks County Department of Health unconditionally recommends not to change the model of instruction for your school districts to virtual at this time." Based on recent conversations with the other superintendents in Bucks County, I am not aware of any district that plans to transition to virtual-only instruction at the current time.

In an effort to assist the district and the Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) in mitigating the spread of COVID 19, please:

1. Email both of our certified school nurses Elissa Harwick - [eharwick@palisd.org](mailto:eharwick@palisd.org) AND Dawn Fulton - [dfulton@palisd.org](mailto:dfulton@palisd.org) - if you are notified that your child (in person or virtual) is COVID positive. There may be a lag time between when you are notified of test results and when the BCDH is notified; we want to begin case investigations as soon as possible.
2. Remain aware of who you or your family members have been in close contact with in order to assist the BCDH contact tracers.

Through your timely notifications and effective contact tracing, we hope to continue to mitigate cases of COVID and keep our schools open.

We remain committed to maintaining social distance, mask wearing by employees and students, symptom monitoring, and regular cleaning of our buildings. Over the upcoming holiday break, our maintenance and custodial staff will be performing their duties as they relate to our normal, preventive cleaning. Extra attention will be paid to cleaning high-touch surfaces and playground equipment. As a follow up to work done at the beginning of the school year, our team will also re-apply an antimicrobial spray with a 90 day residual effect and replace filters in the HVAC systems in each of our buildings in preparation for our students and staff to return.

Palisades is unique in the region for its ability to open at the start of the school year for both in-person, 5 days a week, and virtual learning. As we conclude our eleventh week of the 2020-21 school year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our students, staff and community.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget O'Connell".

Dr. Bridget O'Connell

Superintendent

**Letter from Dr. Damsker: [BCDH Damsker Letter.html](#)**

**Bucks County Map for COVID-19: <https://covid19-bucksgis.hub.arcgis.com/>**

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