



Updates from the District Office

March 23, 2021

Dear BSCSD Parents and Caregivers:

Good morning. Due to a number of new positive cases in our schools in the last three days, we are sending out this appeal to parents this morning to help ensure that we continue to be vigilant against the spread of the virus:

1. **COVID-19 Positive Cases** – As many of you are aware, this has already been a busy start to the week for us with seven (7) positive cases in our schools [reported](#) yesterday (following the thirteen (13) positive cases last week). There are many others being placed into mandatory quarantine, including 14 of our PTECH students, per the rules of the Saratoga County Department of Public Health Services. This is a clear reminder that the virus is still alive and well despite the significant number of vaccinations that have been administered to our staff and in the community and why the CDC still lists Saratoga County at [High Risk](#) for community transmission which aligns with the increasing 7-day average in the county as shown at <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>.
2. **Daily Health Screening** – With so many of our families not completing their daily health screening, we must once again remind everyone to please complete all portions of the **Pinpoint Health** screener each day including temperature. This is necessary (and required by the DOH) in order for us to keep our schools open and minimize disruptions to the learning process. Also, continue to encourage your student(s) to [stay vigilant](#) in mask wearing, social distancing, avoiding large crowds and practicing good hygiene as these are the critical steps that will keep us all healthy thereby allowing our schools to **stay open**.
3. **Reporting of Cases** – Please continue to use our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox to report positive cases and quarantining to us. While the county is working hard to make the needed adjustments for timely reporting to us, they are not always able to do so and thus we need your help. Please contact us as soon as you are aware of your situation.

Related, two other items for your attention:

NYS COVID Vaccine News - The Governor has announced that COVID vaccines will be open to anyone **age 50+**, starting Tuesday, March 23. Saratoga County has a Potential Vaccine Recipient Interest List, where county residents can submit a form indicating interest in receiving a vaccine. This is not an actual appointment or reservation but a way that the county can contact you when a vaccination appointment is available through Saratoga County. This is not the only way to find a vaccination appointment but it may help the process. Click [HERE](#).

Travel Guidance – If you missed it in prior *Updates* and communications, please see our [summary of the revised NYS travel guidance](#) and how this will change again effective April 1. Based on the change in guidance, we will be updating our Pinpoint screener questions which will be in effect beginning Monday, April 12, 2021. For those who will be traveling out of state for spring break, please do so with continued caution and vigilance against the virus, particularly given the ongoing risk for community spread as noted above.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at schoolopening@bscsd.org.

Thanks very much.

Ken Slentz

Superintendent of Schools