

Updates from the District Office

January 5, 2021

Dear BSCSD Parents and Caregivers:

I have a few brief updates for you today:

1. **Testing of In-Person Students and Staff** – Yesterday, Governor Cuomo announced that schools in counties where the COVID-19 positivity rate is above 9 percent would be required to conduct testing of in-person students and staff to determine if they could stay open. As Saratoga County's one-day positive percent rate was reported as 12.7% yesterday and the percent positive over seven days is reported as 10.8% (see <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>), our schools would certainly appear to be included in this requirement. However, because the rules of the state's Micro-Cluster Strategy appear to have changed, we do not have details on testing requirements yet from the NYS Department of Health. I will update you all as soon as we have concrete information on which to act. I anticipate that one such action will be to again include the testing consent questions on our *Pinpoint* health screener. While we have enough staff and student consents to test under the "old" rules, new requirements may require additional consents.
2. **COVID-19 Report Card** – Now that we are back in session, we are again reporting positive cases to this [Report Card](#) site. We have reported a number of new cases, but there is no impact on our operations as we have obviously not been in session. Moving forward, we will continue to notify you as soon as possible of cases that have an impact on a classroom or school being able to open.
For Malta Avenue, you may see an increase in cases reported on the Report Card as this is where we will be recording any positive cases from maintenance, transportation, and district office staff as these employees are not assigned to a specific building under the *Report Card* rules.
3. **January 11 Status** – As noted in recent *Updates*, our goal is to move back to our in-person/remote (hybrid) learning model for all students in K-12 beginning on Monday, January 11. This will be dependent on information that we receive between now and then including new cases and quarantines. We will update you on Friday, January 8 and again on Sunday, January 10 on this plan.
4. **Reporting Positive Cases** – A continued reminder to parents and caregivers to utilize our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox to report cases and quarantining to us. Once received, Mrs. D'Agostino will be in contact with you.

Finally, please continue to [stay vigilant](#) in mask wearing, social distancing, avoiding large crowds, completing all portions of the Pinpoint screener each day including temperature checks, and practicing hand and mouth hygiene as these are the critical steps that will keep us all healthy thereby allowing our schools to stay open.

Our continued thanks to you all.

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools