

Burlington County Special Services School District www.burlcoschools.org

Discover Your Potential

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November 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Friday, November 20, 2020 the Burlington County Department of Health (BCDOH) in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health issued guidance elevating the COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix which requires the District to make changes in its procedures to continue to provide an in person learning experience. The guidance provides in pertinent part:

"Enhanced contact tracing is recommended for those who are symptomatic with COVID-19 compatible symptoms but not yet tested. In other words, close contacts of children and staff who meet the COVID symptomatic definition on your screening sheet would need to be identified and excluded until you receive the test result for the symptomatic person or they receive an alternate diagnosis. (These would not need to be reported to the Health Department unless there is a positive test.)"

To comply with this new guidance we need your assistance. Effective immediately, BCSSSD Bus Passes must be completed each day that clearly identify that a student does not exhibit COVID symptoms that would exclude them from attending school. Students who meet the COVID symptomatic definition must <u>not</u> attend school pending a test result or an alternative diagnosis.

To protect our entire school community, parents and guardians are requested to diligently and proactively monitor symptoms and conditions which may present a change in your child's ability to stay at school, report to school or return to school the next day. Parents and guardians should also continue to monitor their own circumstances, and if COVID symptoms are experienced or close contact with a known exposure or positive case occurs, your child should stay home and the school notified immediately.

I also wish to inform you that the District has modified the notification process to parents and guardians concerning actual or potential COVID-19 cases involving a staff member or student. At the end of each school day, one letter will be forwarded to you identifying any cases on our campuses that have been identified that school day or the previous evening. For any cases that develop from Friday night through Sunday afternoon a letter will be sent on Sunday afternoon. If there are no new cases, a letter will not be sent. This new procedure will eliminate multiple letters being sent throughout the day.



I request your continued assistance in implementing and complying with all COVID related protocols. Please know that our teachers, school nurses and school administrators are dedicated to provide assistance to all affected members of our community. Rest assured we will handle each situation with the utmost care and consideration.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire staff, I thank you once again for your support and cooperation and your willingness to partner with us to follow all necessary protocols to assure the best opportunity to provide education for your child in a safe and nurturing environment. We are committed to continuing to provide education to your child in accordance with the current schedule. Your support with these new protocols will maximize our opportunity to do so.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Nagy Superintendent of Schools