

Town of Bedford

97 McMahon Road

Bedfordps.org

COVID-19 Update

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December 24, 2020

- One (1) new COVID-19 positive case at Bedford High School (BHS case #23) and one (1) new case at (JGMS case # 4) has been identified.
- BHS Case #23 and JGMS case #4 were both determined to have no in-school contacts.
- There are currently three (3) active COVID-19 positive cases in the BHS Community and two (2) active COVID-19 positive cases in the JGMS community at this time.

Dear parents, caregivers, and guardians:

Today I was informed of a 23rd case of COVID-19 within the Bedford High School Community and a 4th case of COVID-19 within the JGMS community since the start of school in mid-september. BHS Case #23 and JGMS case #4 are in isolation at home. Investigations relative to BHS Case #23 and JGMS case #4 revealed that both cases were NOT present in school during their infectious period, and it was determined that there were <u>no close contacts</u> identified in the Bedford Public School community.

Information on close contact identification, contacting tracing and where and when to get tested, can be found in our <u>FAQ</u>.

We remind parents/guardians/caregivers that it is <u>imperative</u> that all Bedford Public School students be evaluated for <u>symptoms of COVID-19</u> each day <u>before</u> sending them off to school. Teachers and school staff are required to do the same self-evaluation for symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of transmission.

We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place in an effort to continue in person learning via our current hybrid model. We are also providing remote learning for all students required to quarantine at home to continue to provide instruction, structure,

and an emotional connection to the classroom during a time that we know will be challenging for those children and families involved.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If there is additional transmission as a result of these cases or a separate case, the Bedford Health Department Staff and School Nurses will immediately begin a case investigation to determine close contacts of any cases and conduct appropriate notifications to any impacted school community members so as to initiate proper quarantine. If any conditions are identified that impact the greater school community and/or return to school, we will send out another message to inform families prior to the return from holiday break. We do not intend to send out case notification letters throughout the school break. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you continued health,

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad Superintendent