

Delaware Valley School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy New Year to all of you! May 2021 bring you good health and plenty of happiness. Our schools were closed for 12 days for winter recess so I wanted to give you an update on the COVID-19 situation over that time period. We had 20 cases over the 12 days so that's less than two per day. The case breakdown is as follows:

DDPS - 2	DDES - 3	DVES - 3	SES - 1
DVMS - 3	DDMS - 1	DVHS - 7	

I do anticipate some short-term closures over the next few months. If a school hits a certain threshold of positive cases in a 14-day period (which varies based on school size), we will switch that school to remote learning for one or more days as per state regulations. These short-term switches to remote learning allow for case investigation, contact tracing and disinfecting. It also resets the 14-day count back to zero for any school that goes remote for one or more days. The 20 cases listed above all happened while we were closed for winter recess so all of our schools reopened today with new 14-day counts starting at zero. Thankfully, the quarantine periods for almost all of the 20 cases ended in time for the staff and students affected to return to school today.

As I was typing this letter, we were just informed of our first new case since reopening this morning. This case is from Delaware Valley Middle School so their 14-day count just went from zero to one. No one needs to be quarantined as the student hasn't been in school since December.

The virus is definitely more prevalent in the community now than it was just a few weeks ago. We are asking everyone to keep their guard up and limit their exposure as much as possible. **What happens in our community seeps into our schools so we need everyone's help to keep the schools open.**

Finally, we are going to stop making the automated calls and social media posts every time we have a positive case. Since we are now held to new metrics based on a rolling 14-day count, we will make the calls/social media posts each time a school is forced to go remote. We will still post letters on our website each day that we have positive cases. We will also continue to update the coronavirus dashboard weekly on our website.

Wishing you all the best in the new year,

John J. Bell

John J. Bell, Ed.D