

Port Allegany School District

20 Oak Street
Port Allegany, PA 16743
www.pasdedu.org

Mr. Gary M. Buchsen
Superintendent

Mr. Adam C. Moate
Business Manager
814 · 642 · 2596
Fax: 814 · 642 · 9574

Mr. Tracy Kio
Elementary Principal
814 · 642 · 9557
Fax: 814 · 642 · 7778

Mr. Marc L. Budd
High School Principal

Ms. Erika Emerick
Assistant Principal
814 · 642 · 2544
Fax: 814 · 642 · 5082

January 11, 2021

Dear Families,

Prior to December 1, 2020 school districts in Pennsylvania were required to submit to the state an *Attestation Form Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts*. This form was approved by the Port Allegany Board of Directors prior to the Thanksgiving break and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It allowed the school district to maintain daily in person instruction in both of our buildings.

With the signing of this attestation, schools are required to follow the '*Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following a Case(s) of COVID-19*' requiring school closure of in person learning depending on the size of the school building and the rolling 14 day average of COVID cases in students and/or staff from that building. These mandated closure periods could last between 3-14 days.

Today the Port Allegany High School was notified of positive cases involving two students. Given these positive cases, and the rolling 14 day average with the building, the **Port Allegany High School is required to close for in person instruction on Tuesday, January 12 through Thursday, January 14. The high school will shift to remote learning for those days.** Tomorrow students in grades 7-12 should log on to their classes at their regular times. Teachers in the high school will be instructing remotely from their classrooms.

In person classes and instruction will resume at the high school on Friday, January 15.

The Port Allegany Elementary School will continue to remain open for in person classes.

Reminder to elementary parents that afternoon bus arrival for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be approximately 15 minutes earlier than normal. Morning pickup times will not be impacted.

Through our contact tracing protocol, we have already identified and will be directly notifying families whose students have likely had close contact with any individuals who tested positive. All of these phone calls will be completed by the end of the day on today. **If by the end of the school day today, you were not directly contacted by the school district, your child has not had close contact with anyone who tested positive.**

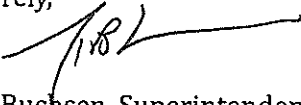
The primary symptoms of COVID-19 include shortness of breath, coughing, and fever or chills. Other symptoms include congestion, sore throat, diarrhea, abdominal pain, body aches, and loss of taste or smell. Anyone who needs medical care should call their healthcare provider to report an

illness or exposure to COVID-19 prior to seeking care. We ask that you notify the school office if your student begins to experience symptoms.

The health, safety, and well-being of our school community remains our top priority. We are following sound protocols aligned with expert health guidance to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect your health. We also want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of wearing masks, staying six feet apart from others, and regularly washing your hands.

We are closely monitoring this situation and will provide you with updates if any further steps are necessary. If you have questions or need to report a positive case of COVID-19, please do not hesitate to contact the Port Allegany School District at 814-642-2544.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Buchsen, Superintendent