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## COVID Updated 1/6/2020

Connecticut COVID-19 Response
Northeast District Department of Health
Free Priority Testing Sites

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Good afternoon. I hope that your children have enjoyed the return to school! I recently was told about a student who told their parents "I can't wait to go to sleep so I can go to school tomorrow!". This is a wonderful example of the love of learning that children are born with and enjoy.

This morning I realized that I had not sent an update about the COVID-19 numbers in the Brooklyn Public Schools. We had many families contact us and inform us of their travel over the winter break and illnesses that impacted their children from returning to school. We have had many students identified as contacts or positive cases as a result of the holidays. We have not had any positive cases in the school that required contact tracing as a result of being in school. That means if your child has come to school, we have no known exposures or need to quarantine because of being in school. We are grateful for families who have been very careful and kept their children at home if they were sick or exposed. Thank you. I am hopeful that if you are family members are sick that you are able to isolate those who are sick and that they have a speedy recovery.

We do know that individuals who have experienced COVID-19 report the same type of symptoms you might experience with the flu, but it lasts longer, is very intense and is highly contagious. Anything you can do to isolate healthy family members from someone who has been exposed or who is sick is important to the wellness of the rest of the household.

Brooklyn COVID-19 Positive Numbers since December 25, 2020: 6 students 1 staff member

\*None of these individuals have been in school since before the break and pose no risk to others in school. These seven cases are from 4 households which is evidence of how contagious it is.

Individuals who are quarantining due to exposure: We have 20 students and 1 staff member who are in quarantine.

As noted before, we are able to stay open when we can manage the spread of the virus. This means that quarantining due to travel or exposure is very important and effective at keeping our schools open. We are able to remain open in the hybrid to be able to have in person learning because we are able to increase physical distance between each other. Please continue to reach out to the school if there are illnesses. Reach out to your doctor and COVID testing is available for free. School Nurses can be reached at: BES nurse's email or 860-774-4618. BMS nurse's email or 860-774-1498.

I hope that you have had a happy new year and that the students are enjoying their time back in the school. Continue to be vigilant and wear your mask, wash hands, increase physical distance and limit prolonged contact with those outside of your home, especially without a mask.

Sincerely, Patricia L. Buell, Superintendent

**Mission**: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.