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PARENT NOTIFICATION

October 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

Earlier this evening, we learned that a staff member who was last in our building on Friday, has tested positive for COVID-19. School leadership immediately contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Education's ("PDE") Rapid Response Team as well as the local liaison with the Pennsylvania Department of Health ("DOH"), who confirmed that our proposed plan of action was the appropriate response. We will remain in contact with them to ensure our follow-through is appropriate and meets the best practices identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC").

After applying CDC criteria, the decision was made to require one staff member to quarantine outside of school for an additional 10 days. The staff member exhibited symptoms on Saturday, visited their physician yesterday, and received their test results today. The staff member was not in close contact with students or staff (within six feet for 15 minutes or longer). This staff member was also vigilant and always wore a face covering. Based on the specific circumstances associated with this particular case, no students will be quarantined. In the event students were to quarantine, their parents would be contacted separately by the school or the Pennsylvania Department of Health. To reiterate, that is not the case in this particular situation.

Bear Creek Community Charter School has taken this course of action, following CDC guidance and at the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, to help ensure the health and safety of students and staff. We will continue to be in contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Because of ethical and legal issues relating to the Family Educational Privacy Rights Act ("FERPA") and the Health Insurance Privacy and Portability Act ("HIPPA"), we cannot and will not identify specific individuals or share personally identifiable information.

Based on a steady increase in positive COVID-19 cases (nationally, statewide, and locally) over the past two weeks, we anticipate we will be dealing with these situations for the foreseeable future. We will continue to balance the developmental needs of our students with the health and safety of both students and staff. We will evaluate each situation based on individual circumstances, will apply CDC guidance, and will consult with both PDE and DOH before implementing a response plan.

We want to ensure all our stakeholders that we continue to plan in advance for various scenarios, and to make decisions based on the most current data available, and with the best interests of all of our stakeholders in mind.

Jim Smith