



## PARENT NOTIFICATION

### October 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

Based on the increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Luzerne County, and the move by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (the "DOH") to transition Luzerne County's Level of Community Transmission from "moderate" to "substantial", the Pennsylvania Department of Education (the "PDE") is recommending schools consider moving to a Full Remote Learning Model. The state is not mandating closures, and each decision is to be made by the local schools/districts based on specific circumstances in their schools and in their communities. Although some schools and districts have experienced positive COVID cases and have opted to close an entire school or even an entire district, most schools have not had any students or staff test positive for COVID-19.

All schools in Luzerne County participated in a brief virtual meeting this morning with PDE and DOH to discuss pandemic data. Over the past seven (7) days, Luzerne County has experienced a positivity rate of 7.5%. The majority of positive cases are in the age 25 – 49 working adult age group, with an even distribution throughout the county (no one area sticks out with a higher number of positive cases than others within the county). Six percent (6%) of the positive cases over the past seven days were in the school-age band of age 5 – 18.

**Currently, no Bear Creek Community Charter School students or staff members are COVID positive.** To date, Bear Creek Community Charter School has experienced no students test positive for COVID-19. One staff member has tested positive and is recovering. One individual who visits the school from a third-party agency tested positive and has since recovered. A number of students and staff members have isolated out of school as a mitigation measure – meant to prevent the spread of the virus.

As a valued stakeholder in the success of our school, I want to continue to share with you our thought process and our planning:

- **Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to operate under our existing reopening plan for the foreseeable future. Our short term goal is to continue our in-person model, kindergarten - fourth grade and our hybrid model, fifth grade – eighth grade, for the remainder of this week and next week;**
- Our mid-range goal is to continue to operate under our existing reopening plan through Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at which time we will re-evaluate data and attempt to weigh risk for the period November 23, 2020 through January 15, 2021 (the "Holiday Period");
- Recognizing that students, families and staff will most likely experience an increase in interaction with others outside their households over the Holiday Period, and therefore increase the risk of being infected, Bear Creek Community Charter School may consider transitioning to a Full Remote Learning Model for a period of time, as a preemptive measure to mitigate COVID-19 in our school building and among our students and staff;

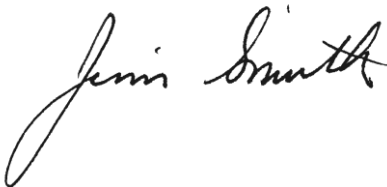
- Everyone must realize that the situation is evolving daily, with multiple factors impacting what we are doing to keep our students and staff safe, and our attempt to maintain in-person learning. Although we want to give parents as much advance notice as possible if we must alter our operations, we may be placed in a situation where that is not possible – so we ask all families to have a contingency plan in case we must transition to a Full Remove Learning Model with little notice;
- We will continue to ask parents to keep children home if they are sick and notify the School Nurse if a student tests positive for COVID-19, exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, or are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Tina Vojtko, RN. 570-820-4070, extension 6106. The same goes for staff. This is extremely important if we want to prevent the spread of COVID and keep school open;
- We will begin taking steps to prepare to distribute iPads to students who requested them, in the event we need to transition to at-home learning on short notice. If you receive paperwork about borrowing an iPad, it is important you sign and return it as soon as possible;
- Teachers are prepared to implement remote learning as needed, and every student will be provided with a letter (on a bright colored piece of paper) that will include all the web sites, logins and passwords needed to access educational material.

We will continue to monitor the health of our students and staff and will continue to be vigilant with our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes limiting person-to-person interaction, social distancing, mandatory face-coverings, and increased sanitation practices.

For us to be successful – we need your help in doing the same. Together, we can limit the impact COVID-19 has on our extended school family, and will can be in a better position to keep our students learning in the preferred in-school environment.

I will continue to share information with you if our situation changes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jim Smith  
Chief Executive Office