

August 20, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that an individual in the Bradley School District has tested positive for COVID-19. We are coordinating our efforts with the Kankakee County Health Department to promptly identify and monitor individuals who have had recent contact with the COVID-19 positive individual to prevent further spread within our school district and community. The health and safety of Bradley School students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

To prevent further spread of the disease, we are taking the following steps:

- Temporary closure of the district to identify and notify close contacts (i.e., persons who were within six feet of a COVID-positive individual for 15 minutes or longer).
- Placing staff members who are identified as having prolonged close contact to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 14 days.
- Ongoing monitoring of the staff for signs and symptoms of illness and evaluation of illness reports to promptly identify possible outbreaks.
- Conducting a deep clean and disinfection of the areas impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

The Bradley Board of Education met last night to review and reassess the "Return to Learn Reopening Plan". Based on this positive case and out of caution, the District made the difficult decision to push back the beginning start date for our in-person blended model to Tuesday, September 8, 2020. More information will be shared by your school and/or child's teacher in the coming week.

Please know, this was an extremely difficult decision. However, the health and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. We are hopeful that pushing back the start date for our students will create a healthier and safer environment for our students and staff. The Board did schedule a special meeting for Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 pm to reassess the plan as we get closer to the start date.

Based on staff or student sickness in the building, local health department, or Governors orders, full remote learning could be mandated at any time. Families should start thinking of child care arrangements if you have not already done so. We may have to make changes with little notice, please be prepared.

New Schedule as of August 20, 2020...

- Wednesday, September 2 – Staff Remote Learning Planning Day – No Students (Certified Staff)
- Thursday, September 3 – Staff Remote Learning Planning Day – No Students (Certified Staff)
- Friday, September 4 – Teacher Institute Day – No Students (All Staff)
- Monday, September 7 – Labor Day – No School
- Tuesday, September 8 – Student's First of In-Person Blended Model Instruction (Original Return to Learn Plan).

Student orientations that were scheduled this week will be rescheduled to a different time. Your school will reach out to you to communicate this information. Chromebook pick up for those students that are remote learning will be scheduled in the near future as well.

As we move forward to the start of the school year on Tuesday, September 8, we will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing:
 - Students are discouraged from sharing personal items, e.g., water bottles.
 - Students are learning new ways to greet each other without touching.
 - Students are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Students will be taught to wash their hands frequently and properly, following CDC guidelines on handwashing.
- As we receive more information from the CDC and Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines if needed.

As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms. Sick students or staff should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms should seek medical care immediately. If your child has had close contact with a known case of COVID-19, keep the child at home and notify your primary healthcare provider, your school, and your local health department. We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

On behalf of Bradley School District, we appreciate your continued support and cooperation in these difficult and unprecedented times. For any questions, please contact you building offices or the district office at 815-933-3371.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott A. Goselin
Bradley 61 Superintendent