

***Floral Park-Bellerose School District***

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***KATHLEEN SOTTILE, Ed.D.***

Superintendent of Schools

January 6, 2021

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

As you may be aware, the COVID numbers continue to rise in our community. In addition to our most recent closure (FPBS for an initial two days, 1/7 and 1/8), I would like to update you with some further information. Currently, our district has both students (73) and staff (14) under mandatory quarantine due to either a close contact or being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Due to privacy laws, information regarding these individuals' identities cannot be released.

The Nassau County Department of Health (DOH) is aware of these cases. School-related contact tracing was not necessary for any cases reported from December 21st through January 3rd since our District was closed during that time. All current cases are being contact traced accordingly.

Guidelines from the DOH require infected individuals to isolate and members of their household to quarantine for 10 days (this is a change from the original 14 days). Further, District protocols require individuals who test positive for COVID-19 to be cleared to return by the DOH or receive a note from their healthcare professional before returning to school.

Everyone in our school community should continue to monitor for any COVID-related symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, and other [symptoms outlined on the CDC website](#). Stay home when not feeling well and contact your healthcare provider if you or your child exhibit any of these symptoms. I know keeping schools open is very important to our families and school community, so please follow all health and safety guidelines to avoid any potential obstacles to this shared goal.

In the event we become identified as a Micro-cluster Zone and must test 20% of each school's staff and students, we have contracted with ATC Healthcare Testing and Screening, and are prepared to set up testing sites at both school buildings. Our survey responses indicate that we have enough staff and students who are willing to be tested to meet the 20% requirement in each building. Thank you to those who completed the survey! If we must continue to test or have a second round of testing, we will ask those who did not complete the survey to do so.

Due to the current number of cases and the anticipated increase in numbers as the holidays have ended, coverage for our staff is becoming extremely challenging. In most cases, we rely on our District substitutes to fill in. In the event we do not have substitutes to cover our classes we will be utilizing the following plans. Plan A would be to use our specialty area teachers and therefore, you may see an interruption in our specials (physical education, music, library and art). Plan B, if all else has been exhausted and where appropriate, single classes may have to go remote. For example, if we have a teacher that must quarantine and is well enough to provide instruction to their class – we would have that class go remote for the duration of the quarantine period. We have determined that this is the best use of our staff due to the familiarity with the students and in Plan B – strong knowledge of the curriculum and students’ current academic levels. Please know we will **ONLY** use these scenarios if there are no other options available.

The health and safety of our entire school community is our number one priority. Thank you for your understanding, partnership, and ongoing cooperation with our COVID-19 prevention policies and procedures. We will continue to closely monitor this situation and provide updates as needed.

**\*\*Floral Park. \*\*(Newsday as of /1/4/21)**

Cumulative cases: **813**

Cases per 1,000 residents: **50.16**

7-day increase: **99**

Daily increase, 7-day average: **14.14**

Daily increase, 7-day average per 1,000 residents: **0.87**

Daily increase, prior 7-day average: **14.43**

Please reach out to either me or your building principals with any questions or concerns. Stay safe and healthy.



Dr. Kathleen Sottile  
Superintendent of Schools