

March 18, 2021

Dear School Community Members,

I was recently surprised to read about increases in COVID-19 positives in European countries. While the United States is opening up, European countries are shutting down again. There were two major interrelated reasons cited. First, vaccination rates were low in Europe because European governments have been slower to authorize emergency use of vaccines. Low vaccination rates may then have permitted fast spreading variants to gain a foothold and spread in Europe. I offer this as an introduction to this week's update to make a critical point. COVID-19 can make a comeback here if we are not careful.

Masks, distancing and hand hygiene are especially important as we return more and more students to full day instruction and as we plan to bring all current in-person students back by April 19. **Now is not the time to let our guard down.**

As children return to school we are seeing more symptomatic children in the nurses' offices and we are sending those children home. None have tested positive for COVID-19 but there are cases of stomach viruses and Strep throat. Those cases can be traced to locations outside of school where children congregate and where they don't wear masks.

It stands to reason that if the children were wearing masks, practicing frequent hand hygiene and social distancing, then they would not be contracting other viruses and Strep, which is a bacterial infection spread through airborne respiratory droplets.

We need cooperation and assistance from more parents if our return plan is going to work. Children with symptoms cannot be sent to school. Some adults believe that a fever is the determining factor. A fever is just one symptom (that may not present) of many possible symptoms (see table on p. 7). The bottom line is that if the return plan fails, we risk having to close again or go back to the hybrid model.

Students need to be back in school. Each of us is responsible for making this work. Thank you for making their return possible and for keeping children with symptoms home. Here's the latest.

Reopening Update. 3PK children return 5 days/week on Monday, March 22. 5th and 6th grade students return on Monday, April 5. We are pleased to announce that 4 year old pre kindergarten students are expected to return to school 5 days/week on Monday, April 12.

We are working to bring back all students in grades 7-12 for the 4th quarter which begins on April 19th. If all goes as planned, 7-12 students will attend 4 days/week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please expect more detailed information from Mr. Frazier in the days and weeks ahead.

Transportation update. Our bus drivers are working very hard and the phased return to full time in-person learning can be very challenging for them as we add more students and different homes to their routes every couple of weeks. Please wave to a Dansville bus driver the next time you see one!

Our Transportation Department is working on routing changes that will spread students out more evenly across the bus fleet as more attend school 5 days/week. The changes will permit us to keep passenger numbers down and return all in-person 3PK-12 students to school. Students on country runs may be picked up earlier in some locations. Village pick up times should be unaffected, but some children who live in the Village and ride the bus to school may be switching to another bus. Bus drivers will inform students and parents when to expect those changes.

Food and Nutrition. The hard work of our food service employees will be remembered for a long time in our community. As more children return to school each day, we have to dedicate our resources to feeding them in school and we will be discontinuing meal deliveries to homes and day care centers after Wednesday, March 24.

Meals for fully remote students will continue to be available for pick up on Mondays from 9:15-10:15 AM at the Primary School drop off loop.

DHS Principal Position Secured. Mr. David Moodie rose above a competitive field of candidates as the clear choice to lead Dansville High School into our future. Mr. Moodie has provided insightful and steadfast leadership in our toughest times. He can always be counted on. His life's work is committed to Dansville students, families and employees.

Mr. Moodie will be recommended to the Board of Education on March 23 as our next high school principal to take effect July 1, 2021. Thank you to our students, staff, faculty, parents and administrators who served on our interview committees.

Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education. Our School Board is committed to ensuring a school community culture that embraces differences, values diversity, protects every individual and lifts those who have been marginalized. The Board is expected to adopt the District's [Equity, Inclusivity & Diversity in Education](#) policy on March 23.

Equity in education is about providing each student with what they need to succeed. Equality is treating everyone the same. But not everyone starts at the same place, and not everyone has the same needs. The support one student needs may be very different than another. NYSSBA is offering this policy to assist districts in putting systems in place to ensure that every student has an equal chance for success. (New York State School Boards Association, 2021)

Next year DCSD employees will examine inherent bias, work to promote inclusivity and make permanent changes that ensure equity for all of our students. Our resolve will improve the educational and life experiences of the students and society that we serve.

Periodic Parent Questionnaire and Covid-19 Symptoms Screening. Parents are asked to follow this [link to the current screening questionnaire for your child\(ren\)](#). The questionnaire will take less than 60 seconds to complete. Please submit your response before Monday, 3/22/21. Thank you!

Quarantines and positives. There are currently 2 active positive cases in the 14437 zip code area. Active Livingston County cases are at 61. DCSD numbers are as good as they have been all year and **now is not the time to let our guard down.**

3/18/21	DPS	EBH ES	DHS	District	ASAP
Quarantined Students	0	0	2	NA	0
Quarantined Employees	0	0	0	0	0
COVID-19 Positive Students	0	0	0	NA	0
COVID-19 Positive Employees	0	0	0	0	0



DANSVILLE, NY

We are looking forward to seeing all of our students safely return to school in the weeks ahead. Please remember that allergy season is just around the corner. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, we need a note from your child's doctor so that we are not sending children with allergy symptoms (which resemble COVID-19 symptoms) home from school.

We live in a wonderful supportive community and we are rebounding from a tough winter and a stubborn pandemic. Let's all stay the course. We are beating this together and we will celebrate as one when this is all over. Until then, keep the faith!

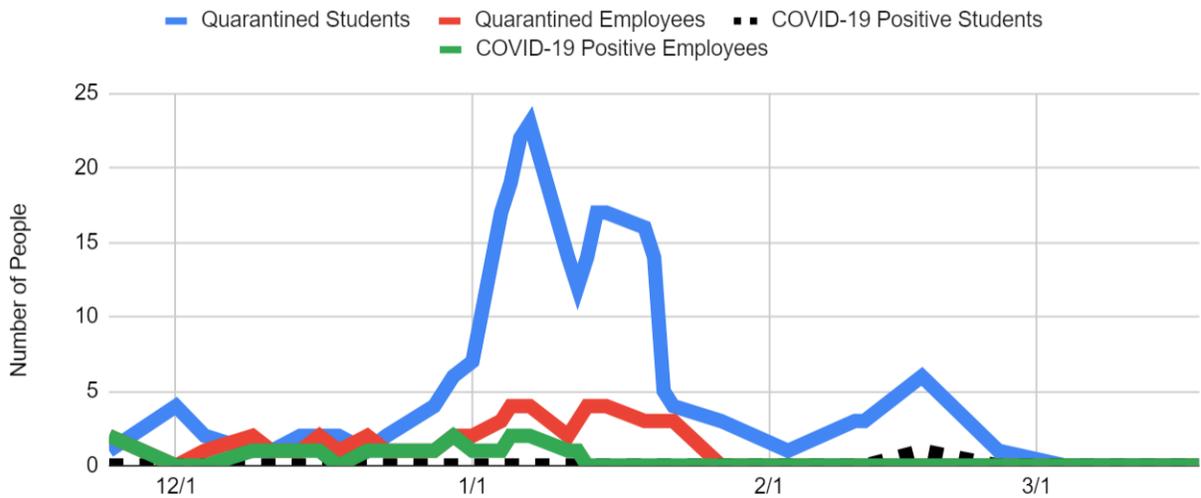
Sincerely,

Dr. Paul J. Alioto
Superintendent

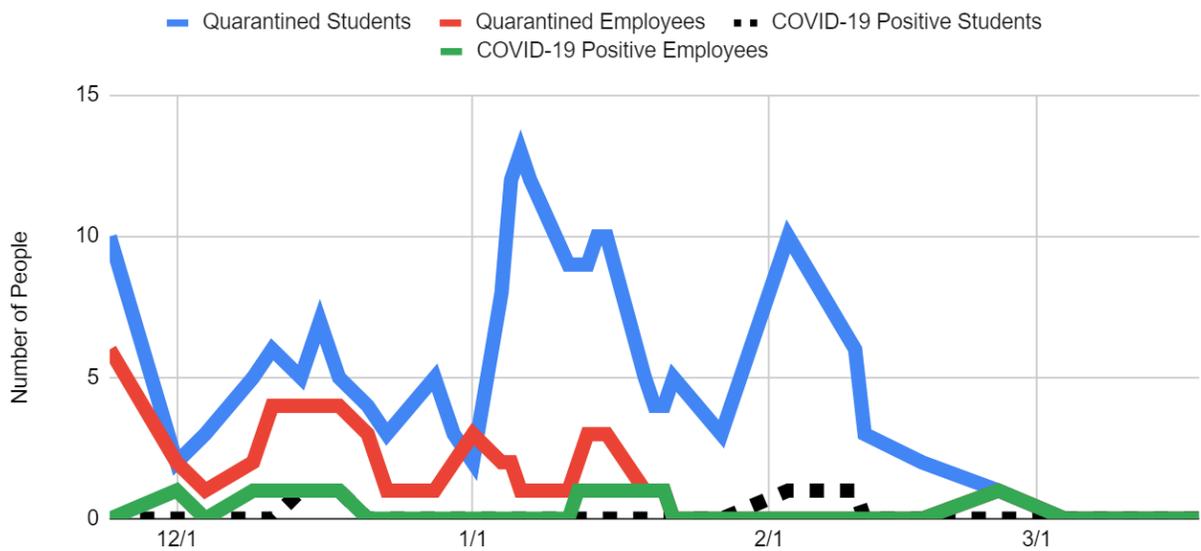
Recent Numbers of Positives and Quarantines at DCSD

The time plots below have been updated to provide a view of quarantines and positives in each school broken down by students and employees through 3/18/21.

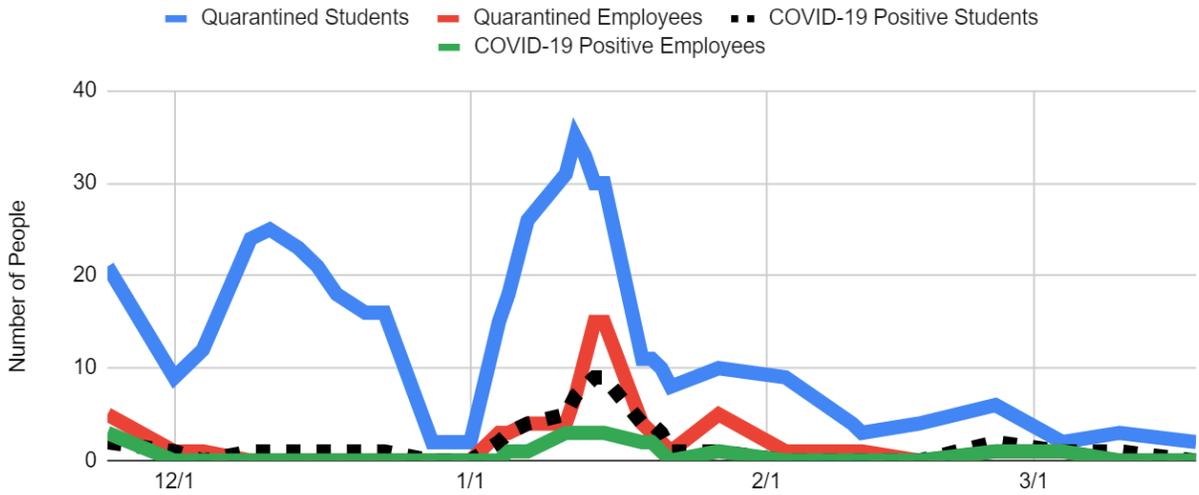
Dansville Primary School



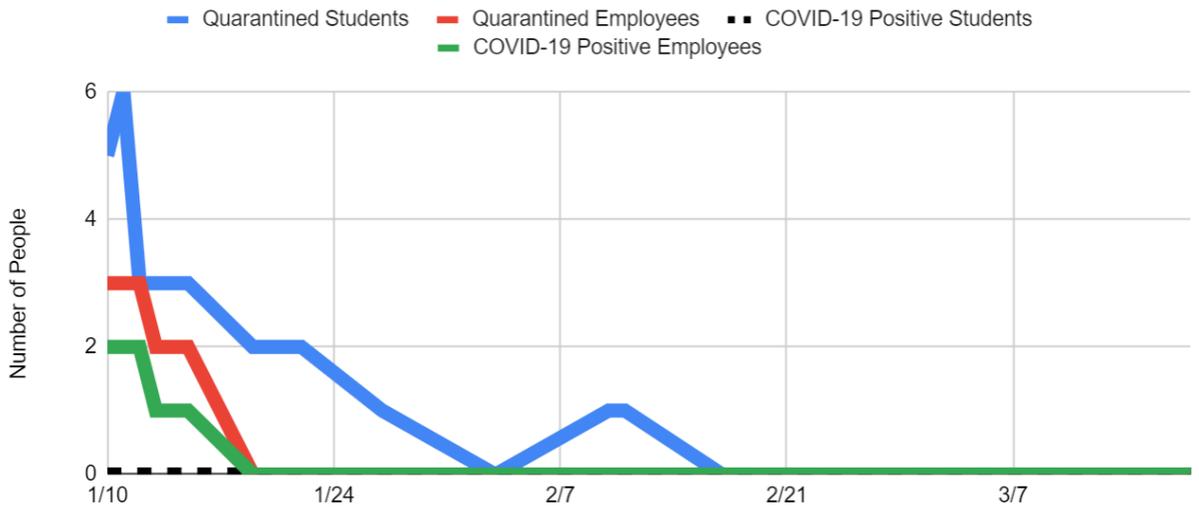
EBH Elementary School



Dansville High School



ASAP



Covid-19 Symptoms

Fever/chills	Sore throat	Headache*	Fatigue*	Nasal congestion or runny nose*
New loss of taste or smell	Cough*	Shortness of breath*	Muscle or body aches	Nausea or vomiting or diarrhea*

*If this is a chronic condition as diagnosed by your child's doctor, then make sure that the school nurse has this documentation on file. We will not send children home who have symptoms that are chronic conditions if we have healthcare provider issued documentation and there are no additional new symptoms.