



BETHLEHEM AREA

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

3300 Chester Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18020 • 610-866-8013 • www.bethlehemavts.org

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

On January 21, 2021 the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School was notified of four new positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among our students and staff. The individuals were last in our building on 12/3/20, 12/11/20 and 1/19/21.

The administration, in conjunction with our district partners and local health officials, has determined that there is no sign of spread and no need to close our building at this time. Since the individuals were last in our building the affected areas have been cleaned and disinfected multiple times.

There is new guidance from the State that identifies when a school should be closed due to the number of positive cases over a rolling, 14-day period. You can find that information here (Bethlehem AVTS is considered >900 student enrollment):

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx>

We are currently at 6 positive cases over the 14-day rolling period of January 11th through January 25th.

Staff members and students who may have come into close contact (any individual within 6 feet of an infected individual for at least 15 minutes) with the individual will be directly contacted by the Department of Health and/or BAVTS Administration with instructions to self-quarantine.

Parents, students, and staff are encouraged to do the following to help prevent the spread of illness at home, in school, and at work:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your eye, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough and sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Practice social distancing and wear a mask

Please follow the guidelines below to determine if you (student or staff) should stay home:

Column A If you checked 1 or more symptoms, student/staff should stay home from school/work	Column B If you checked 2 or more symptoms, student/staff should stay home from school/work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fever (100 degrees or higher)○ Cough○ Shortness of breath○ Difficulty breathing○ Nausea or vomiting○ Diarrhea○ Lack of smell or taste (without congestion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sore throat○ Chills○ Muscle pain○ Headache○ Congestion or runny nose

The Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as needed. Please know the health and safety of our students and staff is our utmost priority. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact me at lazarchaka@bavts.org.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Adam S. Lazarchak
Executive Director