



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.
271 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14201
(716) 881-5400
www.btfny.org

President, PHILIP RUMORE

February 11, 2021

MEMO TO: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: COVID-19 Testing

The District's decision to institute COVID-19 testing in our schools, even though it is no longer required, is to be commended.

In addition, your joining other districts in notifying all district parents and staff of all District cases of COVID-19, as we and others have suggested, is an important step in ensuring transparency.

However, as you may know, since the virus's incubation period, during which time in some cases it can be transmitted, can be fourteen (14) days from exposure to symptom onset, it is critical that we ensure that the sanitization, air circulation, physical distancing, PPE supplies, safety protocols, etc. not only provide for the prevention of the spread by those identified with COVID-19, but also to prevent its spread by pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic carriers.

A recent incident demonstrates what, in my opinion, cannot be allowed.

At Leonardo daVinci High School, a student tested positive for the virus on Monday, February 8, 2021. Not only were the parents in that student's class not notified, but that student's class returned to school February 9, 10, ?, 2021. We are unsure of the current situation.

It is not our intention to cause negative consequences to those involved if this is not in conformance with District protocol. If it is indeed not in conformance, it indicates that more publicizing should take place. If it is in conformance, in the interest of the health and welfare of all, this should not be allowed to occur.

This is not only unacceptable, but it presents a serious risk to these students and any other students and adults with whom the student may have been in contact.

Based upon the District's reports ([Click Here](#)) from February 3, 2021 to February 10, 2021, twenty-two (22) students and twelve (12) staff have been identified as testing positive.

Note: There were four (4) cases in just two (2) days reported at City Honors High School.

In addition, teachers at each school still have not received a written response to the health and safety concerns at their school as per our written requests.

You should know that we continue to receive reports of serious safety issues that have been forwarded to their administrators that continue to go unaddressed, e.g:

- Filthy water in a sink. (#92)
- Temperature scanners providing inaccurate readings. (Multiple Schools)
- Filthy bathrooms, floors, etc.
- Students not wearing masks with no consequences.
- Lack of hot water. (#33)

We, as do you, will continue to work to ensure that our schools are and remain safe and that even one case of COVID-19 in the schools is too many.

PR:su