

**SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER
BOCES
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

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January 2, 2022

Dear Fellow BTA Member,

Before winter break began, I presented to administration numerous questions and concerns regarding the current Covid-19 surge. Many of these items came directly from members across our programs. On December 23, 2021 upper administration sent an email to all staff which provided some information, but did not answer many of the questions and concerns that had been shared with them.

During the winter break, Interim Vice President Mairead Schuelein and I followed up with administration to suggest that communication be provided to all staff prior to January 3, 2022, in order to update staff on a variety of issues. In brief, these issues included which quarantine rules are in effect (14/10 days or the shortened 5 days), the one-time 14-day paid quarantine period, whether a Test to Stay program would be instituted upon return to school on January 3, 2022, the factors that determine when staff are allowed to work remotely, and policies to address students who are capable of wearing a mask but will not.

The responses we received were 1) further communication from administration will be shared upon return to school (but no specific date mentioned); 2) the quarantine rules remain the 14/10 days; 3) no Test to Stay program will be initiated; 4) the guidance document on the SW BOCES website should be considered current.

Unfortunately, many, many questions and concerns remain outstanding, such as flaws in the contact tracing process, protocols for disinfecting rooms, consistent SS and CTE policies determining when students are sent home, the factors that determine when staff are allowed to work remotely, and policies that address students capable of masking but who are non compliant.

Sincerely,

Eileen