

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices



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Message from the Superintendent

September 22, 2020

Huntingdon County first week of “LOW” level of community transmission Data used in planning of full (100%) in person model of instruction

Dear Parents, children and staff:

We continue to empathize with all of you during these most difficult times. Being, remaining, or learning to be flexible continues to be requested for all of us. We are trying to provide the safest learning environment we can, based on science and guidance, as timely as we can, to assist you and your child during the school year. We will continue to empathize with all the changes and adjustments we make that impact your daily lives and schedules. However, it is with the fullest intent to provide the best education possible during the current pandemic and remain open. The reopening of schools has worked very well and we thank you and your children for supporting the mask order, as well as, other safety protocols in place. We could not do this without all of you!

Last night we provided an update to the board of education and the 100 plus zoom participants. Today, we want to share this information with all parents and staff. One item that has changed from last night's presentation is as of today, 9/22/20 Huntingdon County is now in a “LOW level of community transmission.” This means that **if** next week Huntingdon County is LOW (2 consecutive weeks) **then** we will return to full in person instruction (100%) on Monday, October 5, 2020. We will communicate on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 confirming the level of community transmission and any changes on the learning model to shift from a blended/hybrid to full time in person instructional model.

How are we assessing our plan to return 100%?

What is used to determine a full return or to stay with the blended/hybrid model of instruction?

Review of the data used to determine a full in person instructional model (100% face to face) or a blended/hybrid Model (50% face to face).

The Board approved on August 17, 2020 during a regular board meeting:

- Directs the district to follow the recommendations of the state for our area as far as hybrid/full return to school, wearing masks, and other recommendations from the state.
- On a Plane/Grainey motion, and by roll call vote, the Board directed the district to follow the recommendations of the state for our area as far as hybrid/full return to school, wearing masks and other recommendations from the state. This would mean that at present time the school will follow the recommendation that came out last Monday for our area of Blended Hybrid Model to return to school.

The **Covid 19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard** provides county by county data related to the most recent 7 days and the prior 7 days incident in confirmed cases and the incident rate per 100,000 residents. This data is used to determine the Level of Community Transmission (next link)

- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

[Level of Community Transmission](#)

- This is released the Tuesday following the prior week ending date. Huntingdon County has been in Moderate since this data has been provided. Moderate levels recommend a blended/hybrid model of instruction or a remote learning option. HASD is providing both options.
- For additional information related to "Determining Instructional Models" please click on the following link
 - <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>

Parents, staff and stakeholders summary of levels and the districts plan for instruction:

- Whenever we are at "low" in the level of community transmission of COVID-19, as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for two weeks in a row, we offer full, in person-instruction starting the next week.
- Whenever we are at "moderate" for two weeks in a row, we move to hybrid starting the next week.
- *Whenever we are at "substantial" for two weeks in a row, we move to full remote starting the next week. (*Substantial level could lead to an immediate closure of the district or a return to blended model of instruction.)

In accordance with the recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Huntingdon Area School District will begin offering a full in-person model on the Monday

following the publication of data from two successive weeks where Huntingdon County is classified as “Low” in its level of community transmission of COVID-19 as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. (In the event that the Monday is a holiday or other non-instructional day, the full in-person model will begin on the next instructional day.)

Planning for an outbreak or increase in Covid 19 cases.

IF we have to close, how long do we close?

Guidance is provided below based on the county level of transmission and the number of cases within a 14 day period as to how long we should close. At this point the DOH will be involved and providing additional guidance as applicable to our cases.

Summary of the chart

- Whenever there is an outbreak of COVID where there is more than one case among students or staff in the same building, we will shift immediately to full remote instruction for at least three days (with the duration of remote instruction determined by the severity of the outbreak) .

<u>Level of Community Transmission in the County</u>	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 1 student or 1 staff	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 2-4 students/staff in same school building OR <5% of total number of students/staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with individual cases who are not household contacts	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period: 5+ students/staff in same school building OR ≥5% of total number of students/ staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with 2-4 cases who are not household contacts
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 3-5 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 5-7 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Substantial	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission	DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission

**When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.*

Thank you,

Fred Foster, Superintendent