

SPARTANS

SOUTHERN LEHIGH

Dear Parents/Guardians or Staff Member:

I am writing to communicate that the Pennsylvania Department of Health has notified the Southern Lehigh School District that as a result of the number of cases of COVID-19 within the Rolling 14 Day Period ([Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#)) at Southern Lehigh Middle School, that the DOH recommended a closure of Southern Lehigh Middle School for in-person instruction from **March 19th through March 21st**. The DOH requires this closure to ensure that the all necessary case investigation, contact tracing, and quarantine communications are complete.

At this time, SLMS will reopen for in-person instruction on Monday March 22nd at which time the COVID-19 case counts in the Rolling 14 Day Period will reset to zero. However, if an additional COVID-19 case is reported at SLMS on either March 20th or March 21st, the PADOH has stated that they would extend the closure beyond March 21st. Should that happen, SLMS students and staff would shift to Fully Remote Instruction for a period of time to be determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Students and staff **MUST** continue to complete the [Daily Health Screener](#) and stay home when sick or while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Further, staff and students **MUST** notify the SLSD Nursing Team immediately if they are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or are a confirmed case of COVID-19. All SLSD students and staff must continue to closely monitor themselves for any sign of illness related to COVID-19 and seek medical guidance as needed. The Pennsylvania Department of Health provides the following guidance specific to the symptoms of [COVID-19](#).

If you have any questions about COVID-19 or the related symptoms, please call the PA Department of Health at 1-877-PA-Health, Lehigh County representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 610-821-6770, or schedule a virtual visit at [St. Luke's](#) (1-866-STLUKES, option 7) or [LVHN](#), (888-402-LVHN).

Thank you in advance for your diligence in helping the Southern Lehigh School District mitigate COVID-19 in our community. We appreciate your support and the District will continue to work in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health throughout the ongoing pandemic. As always, please feel free to contact me via email at ruhft@slsd.org with questions.

Thomas Ruhf
Assistant to the Superintendent