



November 3, 2020

SLSD Parents and Guardians

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) gathered Lehigh County school leaders to discuss how Lehigh County has moved from a “moderate” level of community transmission (counties with more than 10, but less than 100 cases per 100,000 residents) to a “substantial” level of community transmission (Lehigh County rate is now at 101.9).

Lehigh County Information from the PA DOH COVID-19 Early Warning Dashboard

COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard



County	Difference in confirmed cases (most recent 7 days vs previous 7 days)	Incidence rate (most recent 7 days) per 100,000 residents	PCR percent positivity (most recent 7 days)	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 hospitalizations**	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 patients on ventilators**	Percent of hospital emergency department visits in the most recent 7 days due to COVID-like-illness*
LEHIGH	+146	101.9	6.0%	+15.0	+2.6	0.5%

PDE Instructional Model Chart Issued August 2020

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full in-person Model OR Blended Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Blended Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model



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Since this is the first week at "substantial," the recommendation is to continue with our current instructional model. If the county remains in "substantial," the PDE and DOH recommendation is to move to fully online instruction and remain in that model until the county returns to "moderate" and stays there for at least two weeks.

The Southern Lehigh School District will be carefully considering any changes to our current Hybrid Instructional Model while continuing to consult with representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and local health officials at St. Luke's University Health Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network to help us in our decision making. As we have discussed since the beginning of this pandemic, there may be situations where we need to change instructional models quickly and with limited notice.

The Southern Lehigh School District understands the social, emotional, and academic importance associated with offering in-school learning long-term. As always, we continue to need a partnership with our Southern Lehigh School District community while inside and outside of school. Please continue to remain vigilant about wearing face coverings (over the mouth and nose), being socially distant, washing your hands, and avoiding large group gatherings. As a reminder, if your child or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please immediately contact your child's school nurse to obtain additional guidance specific to quarantine requirements.

We greatly appreciate our community's continued efforts with these health and safety measures.

Kathleen Evison
Superintendent