



November 20, 2020

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the final week of November we must continue to remain vigilant in our mitigation practices; social distancing, wearing a face mask, hand hygiene, and avoiding large gatherings. As mitigation efforts from the state and federal authorities continue to evolve, the Southern Lehigh School District will continue to adapt existing Health and Safety Plans and practices. On November 17, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine announced [Updated Pennsylvania Health and Safety Orders](#). These orders are in effect and will be followed by the Southern Lehigh School District. More information;

- [Updated Face Covering Order](#)

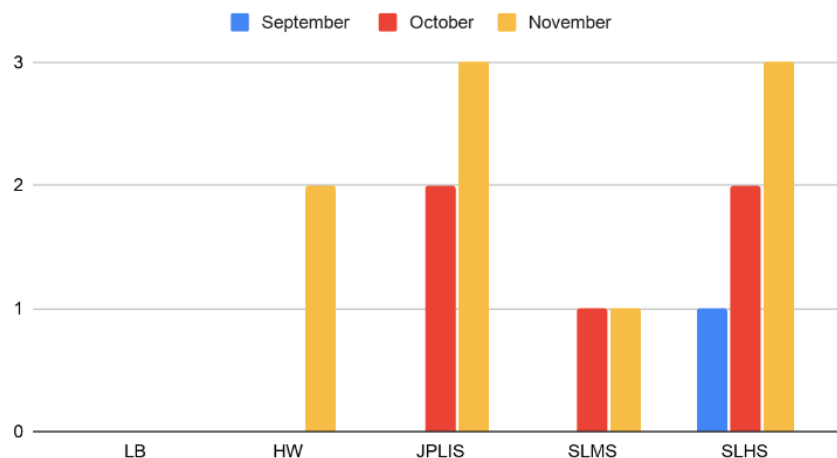
- When indoors, face coverings are required even when physically distant from individuals from outside your household. This means that even when 6 feet apart, a face covering must be worn while inside all Southern Lehigh school buildings.
- When outdoors, face coverings must be worn at all times if an individual is not able to remain physically distant (at least 6 feet away) from someone who lives in a different household for the entire time outdoors.

- [Traveler Testing Order](#)

- Pennsylvanians visiting other states are required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to their return to Pennsylvania or to quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. (Those commuting for work and those seeking medical care out-of-state are exempt)
- Anyone who visits from another state is to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering Pennsylvania.

Attached below is a snapshot of where Southern Lehigh stands in managing the spread of COVID-19 in our school buildings. At the time of this communication, there have been 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff and students since August.

**Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in the SLSD**





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The Southern Lehigh School District staff continues to work in concert with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to support COVID-19 case investigation. District staff will continue to monitor COVID-19 case counts in school buildings while analyzing COVID-19 data including county and zip code case counts and discussing regional trends with medical staff from our local health networks. **Collectively, we must all remain prepared that increasing cases of COVID-19 may force a temporary closure of school buildings or the entire school district.** As a reminder, unlike the remote instruction at the secondary level at the start of the school year, if a school building is closed due to increasing cases of COVID-19 **all instruction will shift to a remote format including instruction for students with special needs.** Should this type of transition be required, the faculty and staff of the SLSD are prepared to migrate to a comprehensive fully remote instructional model.

As a school community, each of us must continue to take individual action to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19, such as practicing social distancing, wearing a face mask, hand hygiene, and avoiding large gatherings. These mitigation strategies are especially important with the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday as this combined approach will aid in slowing the transmission of COVID-19 outside of school which will keep our staff and students healthy, and the doors to our schools open for in-person learning. Although these mitigation strategies continue to feel like sacrifices, we continue to see examples where interactions outside of the school buildings place in-person instruction at risk.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to navigate the pandemic together as a community.

Kathleen Evison  
Superintendent