

Questions & Answers related to COVID-19

Q: There are several recommended models of instruction that talk about levels of community spread. Must a District follow these recommendations for low, moderate, substantial community spread?

A: No. While Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) to create recommended models of instruction, they are not mandates. The Governor has continually advocated for local control.

Q: How are these decisions made?

A: Districts look at many things when electing the model of instruction that best fits their community need. For Tioga County: Superintendents meet weekly with Superintendents from Bradford, Lycoming, and Sullivan, in partnership with our Intermediate Unit 17 Director. During these meetings we are given updates from the Department of Education. We also meet with the Tioga County Task Force, local medical representatives, PA Superintendents Association, the Department of Health, and various other stakeholders. During these meetings we examine the local data by county, zip code, positivity rate, how the spread takes place; i.e. event, placement such as nursing home or other institutions, or individuals with no known events. We also look at age, hospitalizations, and positive cases determined within our school buildings.

Q: I read that Districts must sign an Attestation Form and submit to PDE. What does this mean?

A: If a school district's community spread is in substantial, for more than two weeks in a row, they must complete an attestation form providing information on the current instructional model within the District. If your public school entity **elects to continue in-person instruction** as of November 30, 2020, while the county in which it is located is under a Substantial disease transmission designation for at least two consecutive weeks, such instruction may not occur until the attestation form is signed by the chief public school administrator and the chair/president of the governing body of the public school entity and submitted via email to PDE by November 30, 2020.

If your public-school entity **does not elect to continue in-person instruction** as of November 30, 2020, the attestation form must still be signed and submitted via email to PDE indicating such by November 30, 2020.

On November 30th, 2020 the WASD signed the attestation form providing PDE with the information that we are in remote learning until December 4th, 2020. It is important to note that the attestation form is a fluid document and can be resubmitted multiple times.

Q: If a school district elects to continue in-person instruction is there a process to follow to determine short-time remote periods?

A: Yes. The following flow charts outlines the process to follow. It is also important to note that every positive case is submitted to the Department of Health.

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:
Substantial[†]	1 student or 1 staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	2-4 students/staff in same school building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Close school(s) for 3-7 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	5+ students/staff in same school building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

*WASD has continued to alter the schedule by providing three different options for students to attend school.

Option 1. Full in-person instruction Option 2. Remote instruction Option 3. Wellsboro Online Academy