Reopening Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-21 School Year - Update

School Board Presentation - August 19, 2020
Introduction

The intent of this presentation is to:

1. **provide an update related** to the Reopening Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-21 school year.

2. inform our school community of the recent orders/guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Department of Health (PA DOH) so parents/guardians can best be prepared for potential closures during the school year.

As a reminder **the plan represents the instructional models and procedures** that have been designed for the Fall of 2020 based on evolving data and orders/guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Health.

**NWLS’s Pandemic Coordinator** - Dr. Troy Sosnovik - Assistant Superintendent of Schools
The science, public health conditions, and orders/guidance surrounding COVID-19 are continually evolving.

PA specific orders/guidance issued this summer:

- June 25, 2020 - Considerations for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools
- July 1, 2020 - Universal Face Coverings Order
- July 2, 2020 - Quarantines following travel states
- July 6, 2020 - Instructional Days/Hours During the 2020-2021 School Year
- July 15, 2020 - Targeted Mitigation Efforts Order
- July 16, 2020 - Public Health Guidance for Schools
- August 6, 2020 - Recommendation that Pre-K to 12 school sports be postponed until at least Jan. 1, 2021
- August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- August 13, 2020 - Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19
- August 18, 2020 - Updated Face Covering Guidance


The first day of school is still scheduled for August 31, 2020.
The Departments of Health and Education issued recommendations to Pre-K to 12 schools to use when making decisions related to the instructional models* used during the 2020-21 school year.

* Recommendation issued the same day that the NWLS School Return to School Commitment Form closed for parents.

Guidance relies on two standard public health metrics: incidence rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing reported by county. These metrics are available on the COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard.

**Difference in confirmed cases** - The number of confirmed cases identified in the most recent 7-day period minus the number of confirmed cases identified in the previous 7-day period

**Incidence rate (per 100,000 residents)** - (Number of new confirmed cases in the most recent 7-day period/2018 county population) x 100,000

**PCR Percent Positivity** - The number of persons who tested positive by PCR during the most recent 7 day-period / the number of persons who were tested by PCR during the most recent 7 day-period, expressed as a percent. Retested persons are included. Since many people who are routinely retested as part of universal testing programs repeatedly test negative, the percent positivity is lower than what would be calculated if one used the number of new cases and the number of people tested for the first time in the most recent 7-day period.

Source: COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard
Instructional Model Definitions

**Full In-person Model**
School is open each day with in-person instruction for all students (with some students/staff in a remote setting as health and safety concerns require).

**Blended (Hybrid) Learning Model**
Any model in which the number of students in a school building is reduced to allow for social distancing of 6 feet. This may be accomplished in many ways, including split schedules, schedules that rotate by day or week, or similar approaches.

**Full Remote Learning Model**
Any model in which all students engage in all learning remotely.

Source: Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic
August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models

Source: COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard
August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Newly reported confirmed cases</th>
<th>Incidence rate per 100,000 residents</th>
<th>PCR testing positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased from 104 confirmed cases the previous seven days to 128 cases in the most recent seven days.</td>
<td>Increased from a rate of 28.3 per 100,000 residents in the previous seven days to 34.8 per 100,000 residents in the most recent seven days.</td>
<td>Increased from a PCR testing positivity rate of 3.1 percent during the previous seven days to 4 percent over the most recent seven days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>104</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Previous 7 days</td>
<td>Most recent 7 days</td>
<td>Previous 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>128</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>Most recent 7 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#)
# August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models

## Level of Community Transmission Table

**Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools in Determining Instructional Models:**

- **Low:** Full in-person model or; blended learning model
- **Moderate:** Blended learning model or; full remote learning model
- **Substantial:** full remote learning model

More information on recommended instructional models and levels of community transmission: education.pa.gov/COVID19

*The table below is updated weekly on PDE's website (education.pa.gov/COVID19) to reflect data for the week ending the previous Friday.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Week ending 8/14/2020</th>
<th>Week ending 8/7/2020</th>
<th>Week ending 7/31/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEHIGH</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic](education.pa.gov/COVID19)
As of the latest reporting period, 8/14/2020, **Lehigh County is Moderate.**

Note: This guidance **couples NWLSD to Lehigh County data.**

*** Important ***
The Level of Community Transmission in the County is an “**OR**” decision NOT “**AND**”.

Instructional Models Available to NWLSD:
- Blended Learning
- Full Remote Learning

NWLSD communicated to families on August 11, 2020 that we would be **offering Blended and Full Online** for the start of school.

Source: [Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
August 13, 2020 - Recommendations Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

The Departments of Health and Education issued recommendations to Pre-K to 12 schools for use in consultation with public health staff when making decisions related to school procedures following a case of COVID-19 in a school.

When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school setting, public health staff from DOH will work with school administrators to provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, and closing certain areas of the school or the entire school building if necessary.

When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases.

Source: Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19
## August 13, 2020 - Recommendations Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Community Transmission in the County</th>
<th>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</th>
<th>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</th>
<th>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1 student or 1 staff</td>
<td>2-4 students/staff in same school building OR &lt;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</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>School does not need to close Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</td>
<td>Close school(s) for 3-5 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</td>
<td>Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school(s) Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The duration of closure may vary based on local guidelines and public health recommendations.*
August 13, 2020 - Recommendations Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

Definitions:

- **Cases** are people who have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Isolation** is when the public health staff direct cases to stay home, in a hospital, or in a care facility to ensure they do not expose others with COVID-19.
- **Close contacts** are individuals who have been exposed (within 6 feet distance for at least 15 consecutive minutes) to someone who is a case during the infectious period, and it is unknown if the contact will go on to develop COVID-19.
  - DOH determines close contacts and is responsible for communicating to them. They may solicit the assistance of the District to aide in communication.

Public health staff will work with school administrators to determine whether entire classrooms or other cohort groups need to be quarantined.

Source: Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19
August 13, 2020 - Recommendations Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

**Household contacts quarantine** (like siblings and parents/guardians/caregivers)

For household members of the confirmed case, that could be at least **24 days** since the case developed symptoms:

- When a case can’t separate themselves from the rest of their household, then the risk of infecting their household contacts is ongoing during their 10-day isolation period.
- Because of that ongoing exposure, the quarantine period for the healthy household contacts starts at the end of the case’s 10-day isolation period.
- That quarantine period is 14 days after the end of the case’s 10-day isolation period for a total of 24 days.

Source: [Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19](https://www.parduino irritated.com/health-department/health-centers/pre-k-12-schools-following-identification-case(s)-of-covid-19)
August 13, 2020 - Recommendations Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

Why is all of this important?

There is a high potential for the DOH to recommend that the entire school shut down with little to no notice for an extended period of time.

- the District will require educational staff and students to bring their devices to school and take them home each day.

- We are recommending families need to have a plan in place for child care coverage in the event a closure occurs.

- Employees are required to follow the Continuum of Screening: Employees and tell the contact tracer that they work for the Northwestern Lehigh School District when contacted by the PA DOH.

- Parents/Guardians are required to follow the Continuum of Screening - Students and tell the contact tracer that their child goes to school at the Northwestern Lehigh School District when contacted by the PA DOH.
The Departments of Health and Education issued a requirement that “students wear face coverings at all times while in school, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions.”

The Departments based this update on American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released an update to their guidance.

**Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields)?**

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.

Level appropriate consequences for a failure to follow the Face Covering requirement have been made in each schools’ Student Code of Conduct which families acknowledge at the start of school.

Source: Updated Face Covering Guidance
We are all *in this together* and *together we will get through this.*

Our success is dependent on the *continued collaboration and communication* between the District and families.

We are **recommending families need to have a plan in place for child care coverage** in the event a closure occurs.

**Employees and Parents/Guardians are required to follow** their respective Continuum of Screening and inform the PA DOH that you work or child goes to Northwestern Lehigh School District.