

Perkiomen Resolved

Perkiomen School

Communication Plan: Shift in Instructional Model

Updated August 18, 2020

As we enter the 2020-2021 school year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health will continue to monitor community transmission rates and other surveillance metrics across Pennsylvania, including Pre-K to 12 school specific outbreaks of COVID-19. The Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education have issued guidance related to school closures as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

It is important to note two points that will affect Perkiomen School:

- Closure of a school or campus may be required based on Montgomery County's virus transmission rates, not the school's number of cases.
- A decision on instructional models (in person vs. online) requires a great deal of consideration of local factors including size of the school entity, classroom size, school resources, and proportion of staff and students with special needs and underlying health conditions.

If an entire school campus is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.

There are several variables in play that would trigger a shift to all-online classes or a campus closure. The PA Department of Health has provided a [chart](#) as preliminary guidance and will provide proactive consultative assistance to schools should such an outbreak occur that may necessitate campus closure.

If Perkiomen School closes campus and/or makes a shift to all online learning, we will take the following steps:

1. Following notification by the PA Department of Health and/or Department of Education, Perkiomen will meet and discuss directives with the faculty and staff.
2. Perkiomen School will email students and families to alert them of the projected campus closure or shift to online learning, relaying preliminary details and start dates.
3. Perkiomen representatives, including Task Force members and Health Center staff, will review guidance from the PA Departments of Health and Education, as well as our own academic plans, and then further details will be communicated by email to students and families.
4. Perkiomen School will schedule a family information session to be conducted via Zoom or other online platform to relay information and answer questions.
5. Perkiomen School will resume updating and communicating via the Virtual Perkiomen webpage, as well as regular emails as needed.

