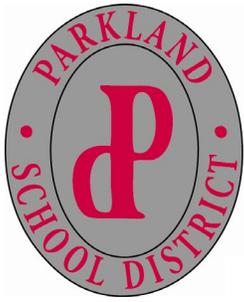


Parkland School District



PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence.

Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Rd., Allentown, PA 18104
www.parklandsd.org



ParklandSchoolDistrict



@ParklandSchools



RICHARD T. SNISCAK
Superintendent of Schools
610-351-5500
Email sniscakr@parklandsd.org

RODNEY R. TROUTMAN, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
610-351-5505
Email troutmanr@parklandsd.org

FAX 610-351-5508

November 2, 2020

Dear Parkland Staff and Families,

I am writing to inform you of a meeting hosted today by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) with respect to county levels of transmission of COVID-19 and instructional models for all school leaders in Lehigh County. PDE and PA DOH issued a chart in August 2020 that created three tiers of community transmission rates that school districts should use to determine if in-person instruction should occur. The tiers (low, moderate, substantial spread) look at incidence rate and positivity rate metrics as noted in the chart below:

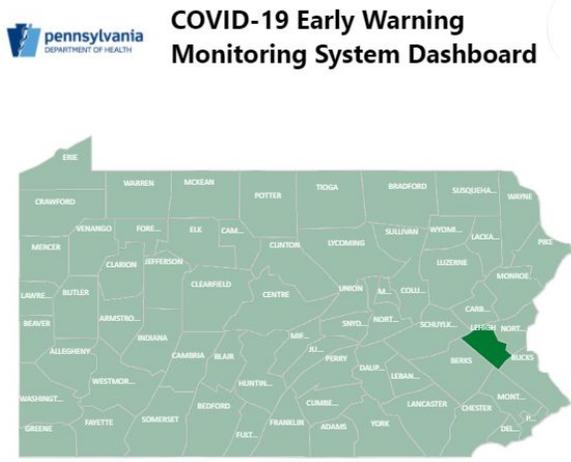
PDE Chart Issued in August 2020

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

Today, PDE and PA DOH informed all Lehigh County schools that 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’s positivity rate is at 6% which is identified as a “moderate” level of community transmission. However, as the chart notes above, if one of the two indicators are determined to be “substantial,” then the county is identified as having a “substantial” level of community transmission.

Lehigh County Information from the PA Department of Health Monitoring System



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%

Given that this is the first week Lehigh County is identified with a “substantial” level of transmission, PDE and PA DOH have recommended that school districts maintain the current instructional model (hybrid). If Lehigh County remains in a “substantial” level of community transmission next week, PDE will recommend Lehigh County schools move to fully remote instruction. PDE recommends that schools in a fully remote instructional model remain with this instructional model until such time as Lehigh County returns to a “moderate” level of community transmission of the virus for two consecutive weeks while they continue to analyze the trends. If our incidence rate next week drops below 100, and our positivity rate remains below 10, and Lehigh County is identified with a “moderate” level of community transmission, we will continue with a hybrid instructional model.

Richard T. Sniscak
Superintendent of Schools

We will continue to monitor this information with PDE and PA DOH and I will keep you informed as we are updated with new information.

Please reference our [coronavirus resource page](#) for more information related to the pandemic and testing resources within our community.

Thank you,

Richard T. Sniscak
Superintendent of Schools