



Path to Reopening Schools: Health & Safety Plan Update

**August 18, 2020 - Regular School Board Meeting
Superintendent's Report**

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.



Evolution of Pennsylvania Specific Orders/Guidance

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 17, 2020 * - [PA Student Required to Wear Masks at All Times](#)

* Issued after the approval of our Reopening Health and Safety Plan - July 28, 2020.



August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models

The Departments of Health and Education issued **recommendations to Pre-K to 12 schools to use when making decisions related to the instructional models*** during the 2020-21 school year.

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

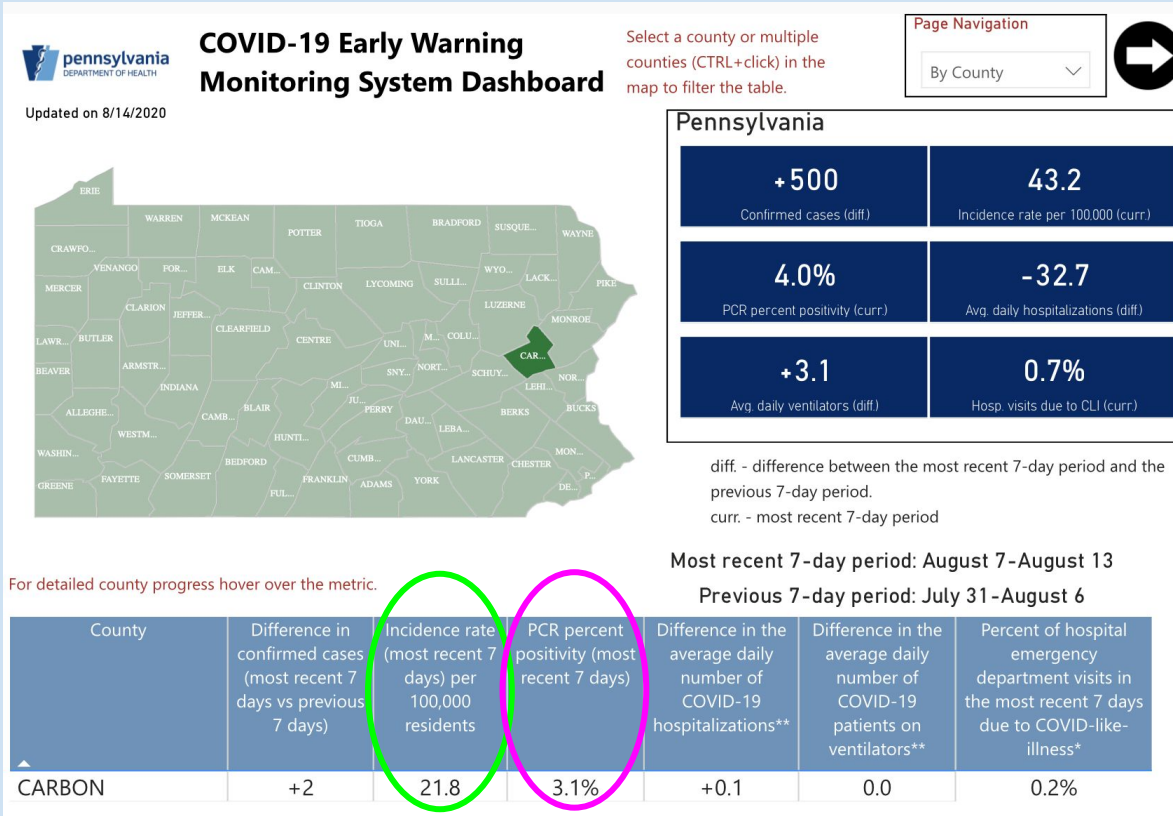
Incidence rate (per 100,000 residents) - (Number of new confirmed cases in the most recent 7-day period/2018 county population) x 100,000

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](#)



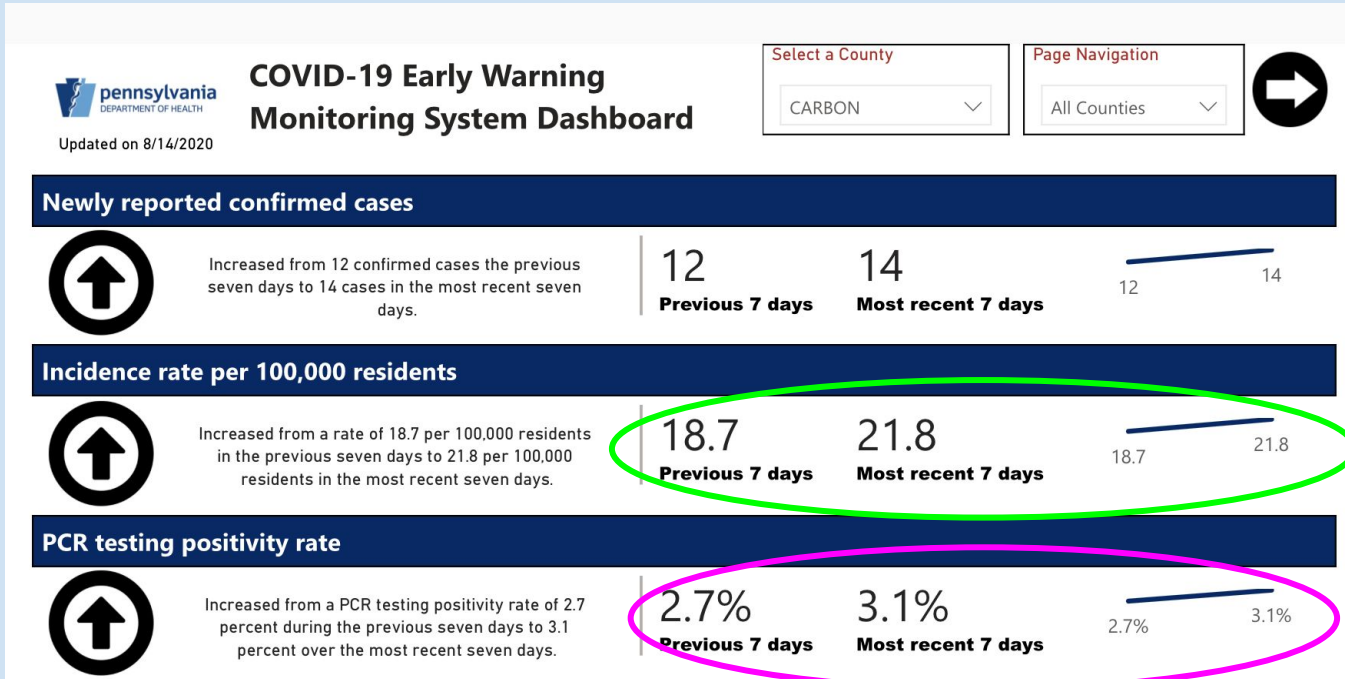
August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models



Source: [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#)



August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models



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.

County	Week ending 8/14/2020	Week ending 8/7/2020	Week ending 7/31/2020
CARBON	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Source: [Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)



August 10, 2020 - Determining Instructional Models

As of the latest reporting period, 8/14/2020, Carbon County is **Moderate**.

***** Important *****

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

Instructional Models Available:

- Blended Learning
- Full Remote Learning

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 21.8	OR	5% to <10% 3.1	Blended Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

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

<u>Level of Community Transmission in the County</u>	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 3-5 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 5-7 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Substantial	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>

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.

- 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 [Daily Wellness Check for 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 [Daily Wellness Check for Students](#) and tell the contact tracer that their child goes to school at the Northwestern Lehigh School District when contacted by the PA DOH.



Summary

We are all **in this together** and **together we will get through this**.

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 (see previous slide) and inform the PA DOH that you work or child goes to Palmerton Area School District.

