

November 2, 2020

Dear Haverford Community,

Today, Superintendents across Delaware County participated in a meeting with the PA Department of Health and PA Department of Education to review the Covid-19 incidence rates in Delaware County. It is no secret that rates are increasing. The purpose of the call was to alert us to the concerns both departments have about the upward trend in the data specific to our county.

Below you will find detailed information regarding the following:

- Current positivity and incidence rates in Delaware County and Haverford Township
- Factors to be considered when determining whether to transition back to a 100% Virtual model

What are our Incident and Positivity Rates?

Below is the Delaware County Incident and Positivity Rate and Haverford Township SD Data as reported from the [Chester County Health Department](#) on 10/30/20. It is important to note that the data identified as Haverford Township SD is reflective of the entire community/township. Although titled as such, it does not represent the school district. In these charts, week one is the most recent week (10/23-10/29).



Monitoring & Protecting Our Progress

Most Current 7 Days: 10/23/2020–10/29/2020

Published: 10/30/2020

Chester County and Delaware County Cumulative COVID-19 Incidence Rate by Public School District

Published: 10/30/2020

Public School District	Population	Positive Test Count				Incidence Rate Per 100,000			
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Haverford Township SD	49,089	51	58	31	22	103.89	118.15	63.15	44.82

Cumulative Incidence Rate per 100,000

Delaware County

7 Day Period	Positive Case Count	Incidence Rate per 100,000	Additional Data
Week 1 (most current)	758	134.22	Public School District Incidence Rates
Week 2	526	93.14	
Week 3	430	76.14	
Week 4	313	55.42	
Weeks 1-4 Average	506.75	89.73	

Percent Positivity

7 Day Period	Positive PCR Tests Count	All PCR Tests Count	Percent PCR Positivity
Week 1 (most current)	826	12,225	6.76%
Week 2	569	12,186	4.67%
Week 3	474	12,310	3.85%
Week 4	344	11,224	3.06%
Total for All Weeks	2,213	47,945	4.62%

Consideration for transitioning between instructional models will be based upon the below thresholds as follows.

- Transitioning to a more in-person instructional model can be considered when thresholds for incidence rates and positivity are met for three (3) consecutive weeks per the table below.
- Transitioning to a more virtual instructional model can be considered when thresholds for incidence rates and positivity are met for two (2) consecutive weeks per the table below.

Community Transmission	Incidence Rate per 100,000	AND/OR	PCR Test Positivity	Instructional Model
Low	<10	AND	<5%	In-Person
Moderate	≥ 10 and <40	AND	≥5% and <7%	Hybrid
High	≥40 and <80	OR	>7% and <10%	Virtual and/or Hybrid
Very High	≥80	OR	≥10%	Virtual

If thresholds are being met in two different Community Transmission levels (incidence rate in one level and positivity in another level) the higher Transmission level is the recommended level.

As a district, we have added a [COVID-19 Data Chart](#) to our website to keep the community informed of in-school COVID-19 positive cases. The data on this chart is updated weekly on Sunday. At times you may notice that a prior week's number has changed. This is due to a test result that was received after the week has concluded for a person who was symptomatic during that previous week. For example: If a person was in our building all week, became symptomatic on Friday, and received a positive test result on Monday, that number would be attributed to the week the person was in our building and contagious, not the date of the positive test result.

Will our schools remain open for hybrid (in-person) schooling?

The first question and probably most frequently asked, has been "If the current incidence rates continue, will we need to go back to virtual learning?" This question was addressed in my weekly meeting with the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) and the medical experts from CHOP and the University of Pennsylvania. Their answer to this question was a qualified "it depends".

All of the health entities believe that districts should focus on "linked transmission" as the most important factor. This means they will look for situations in which individuals within the same building and/or district are spreading the virus. They also believe strongly that our protocols are working well. To date, we have not experienced any linked transmissions. They reinforced that we should continue to do what we're doing regarding stacking health precautions, contact tracing, and quarantining.

What factors will be considered when deciding whether to return to a 100% Virtual model?

The reality is that the numbers are increasing and like everything else during this time, the above response is good for today and will most likely evolve and change in the near future. Some factors that may cause us to move to virtual learning at a school, some schools, or all schools would include:

- A recommendation from either the PA Department of Health or the PA Department of Education. I anticipate hearing from them early next week as they continue to monitor the county data.
- Linked transmissions within or among schools.
- A point where the CCHD could not contact trace the positive cases to control the spread of the disease through the community.
- A time when we don't have enough staff to safely open our schools and follow our Health & Safety Plan.

What can we do to keep our schools open as long as possible?

The greatest takeaway from these weekly conversations is that our behaviors outside of work and school are paramount to keeping everyone safe. Please continue to mask, social distance, symptom screen, and practice good hygiene by washing your hands often. And, always, please keep your child(ren) home if not feeling well.

When will we get another update?

At the Thursday, November 5th School Board Meeting I will be providing an update to the community as part of my Superintendent's remarks. If you are unable to attend the Zoom meeting, the recording will be posted to the website the next day and as always the live stream is available on our YouTube Channel.

Thank you for all you have done and are doing to support our students and staff.

Sincerely,
Maureen Reusche, Ed.D.
Superintendent