

March 3, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Chester County Health Department, the health authority for Delaware County, released [revised guidance](#) on February 26th allowing for some reduced physical distancing in schools. This opens the possibility for secondary students to engage in more in-person learning opportunities. A revision to the hybrid model that allows for this will be presented to the School Board on March 18th.

Our middle and high school principals are holding parent/guardian meetings over the next two weeks to provide an overview of how this would look in grades six through twelve. We know that face-to-face instruction is critical for our students, and we want to provide additional in-person time to the greatest extent possible in a safe manner.

**A few important points:**

- The guidance states that physical distancing of 6 feet to the greatest extent possible is recommended for students; at no time is less than 3 feet permitted. A distance of 6 feet between staff and students is still required, even if student-to-student distancing is reduced. Guidance has not changed from 6 feet separation during unmasked lunches.
- If the County's Community Transmission Level (which includes Incidence Rate and Positivity rate) changes to a lower or higher level for three (3) consecutive weeks, schools are encouraged to reassess their instructional model and adjust if necessary.
- These thresholds serve as guidance and must be considered along with additional information such as the number of COVID-19 cases in school, evidence of transmission within schools, staffing levels, and adherence to mitigation measures.
- Each week the Chester County Health Department posts the latest COVID-19 updates. We will continue to closely monitor these levels. The positive case count and incidence rate per 100K in Haverford Township are trending downward. They can be found at this link:  
<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/60838/Monitoring-and-Protecting-Green>
- Masking, increased hygiene, contact tracing, and other mitigation efforts will remain in place.

**What does this mean for the School District of Haverford Township?**

- At the March 18, 2021 meeting of the Board of School Directors, the administration will propose the revision described below to begin on April 6, 2021. We will continue to monitor the COVID 19 transmission data at the county and the local levels.
- Our administration will revise the hybrid model to bring all students into the building for in-person learning 5 mornings per week. Students will continue to engage in virtual learning in the afternoons.

- Because we simply don't have the space to provide the recommended 6 feet of distancing between middle and high school students who would be unmasked during lunch, they will remain on their current daily schedules.
- Schedules, arrival, and dismissal times will all remain the same. (HMS 7:50-12:30; HHS 7:30-12:00)
- Those who are currently enrolled in HOL or attending school virtually will remain in their existing classes and learning program. Those wishing to return to in-person learning will be placed on a waiting list.
- Those who wish to transfer from in-person to online-only learning should indicate this preference on the form that will be sent next week. The online options will include attending class via Zoom or participating in asynchronous Pearson instruction supported by a Haverford teacher.
- We continue to encourage families to transport their children to not overcrowd the busses. Students riding the bus will be seated two to a seat. We also discourage carpooling for families that do not reside in the same household.

For your convenience, we provide this timeline overview that summarizes the events as they have and continue to occur.

- February 26: CCHD released the revised guidelines to allow for some reduced physical distancing in schools
- Week of March 8: Principal meetings with families
- March 8: Instructional Model Selection form will be sent to families
- March 11: Surveys due
- March 18: School Board Meeting to discuss the plan to return secondary students to 5 days per week of in-person instruction
- April 6: Potential return date for five days of in-person instruction at the secondary level

We continue to advocate for vaccinations for our staff and hope the coming weeks will see an increase in their ability to obtain these vaccinations. As you know, Pennsylvania, and more specifically Delaware County, has struggled significantly with vaccine procurement and distribution.

We appreciate your support and patience as we work together to ensure a smooth, safe transition for our students and staff.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Reusche, Ed.D.  
Superintendent