

Passing Along News to PA Schools

1 message

Gary Niels <gniels@paispa.org>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 10:34 AM

To: smallschoolheads@paispa.org, largeschoolheads@paispa.org

Dear PAIS School Heads,

I am passing along some information that I have received this morning through our association with CAPE. You may or may not find it to be relevant or helpful. We continue to believe that despite the rising number of cases PDE does not have an appetite to mandate school closure and particularly as it relates to independent schools; the same is true of the Governor's office. I am less confident that local health departments would not issue guidance that includes private schools.

FYI: From CAPE to PAIS

We are receiving word from PDE that they are communicating the following to public school districts: if your county is in "substantial" for two weeks in a row PDE recommends the school district offer remote learning to all its students.

*As of today, we are not aware of any district following that recommendation. Apparently, districts are continuing to offer the same school model they were offering in the past. Some districts that were fully remote and planned to return to some form of in person instruction have delayed that decision and have continued offering remote education only, but that is all I am aware of. Community transmission has **not** caused widespread increased COVID cases in schools and that is why districts are continuing to offer the same education model as in the past.*

FYI: FROM PDE to Public School Districts

Here are the 11 counties that PDE sent an email to this morning (Monday, November 9): Berks, Bradford, Centre, Huntingdon, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Schuylkill & Union.

Below is an overview of your county data, updated on November 6, 2020. The public health metrics below are accessible on the interactive [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#), which is updated every Friday.

- *For the week ending November 6, 2020 Berks County is in the substantial level of community transmission. This is the 4th week that Berks County is in the substantial level.*
- *The county Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days) is 156.1 and the PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days) is 7.7 %.*
- *The incidence rate per 100,000 residents decreased from the previous 7 day reporting period to the most recent 7 day reporting period.*
- *The PCR percent positivity decreased from the previous 7 day reporting period to the most recent 7 day reporting period.*

More information and public health data to inform local decision making, including zip code level case data, is available on the [Pennsylvania COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

Based on this continued level of transmission, PDE and DOH recommendations remain the same as last week which is for full remote learning until the community transmission rates return to moderate. As these are recommendations, not a mandate, each LEA should continue to review their data and make the best decisions for their students, staff and community. For research and further information on instructional models, visit the [PDE website](#).

I will keep you posted of any further news.

Best!

Gary

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