

FYI: Recommendation for Elementary Schools

1 message

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Acting Secretary Noe Ortega announced yesterday that PDE, with supportive empirical data from the Dept. of Health and CDC, recommends a second semester (typically January 25th) return to in-person instruction for elementary school students.

This is not a PDE mandate, just a recommendation that will allow local school leaders to make the ultimate decision to have their elementary students return to in-person instruction based on local conditions and continued mitigation efforts. This PDE recommendation is specific to elementary students and targeted populations (i.e. students with disabilities) as determined by the school district-- so the targeted population could extend past elementary age.

Middle, high, and college aged students are not part of this recommendation at this point, as the concentration is on the continuity of learning for young and targeted populations as many studies have shown that these types of students benefit most from being in the classroom.

Although COVID cases exist for school aged students of ages 5-18 in PA, and the number of those cases heightening in Oct through Dec, transmission is still lower for those age 10 and under compared to adults (per the American Pediatric Journal) and the risk and hospitalization with that age group is also lower.

Dr. Levine once again emphasize the efforts we can all do, wear a mask, social distance, avoid gatherings, etc. because children are more likely to get COVID from after school activities than in the actual classroom.

Additionally, Dr. Levine discussed the new UK variant of COVID now that Pennsylvania has a confirmed case of it and other general news relating to testing and download the Department of Health's app

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