



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

Previous communications are archived on the District's [COVID-19 Webpage](#).

Friday, November 6, 2020

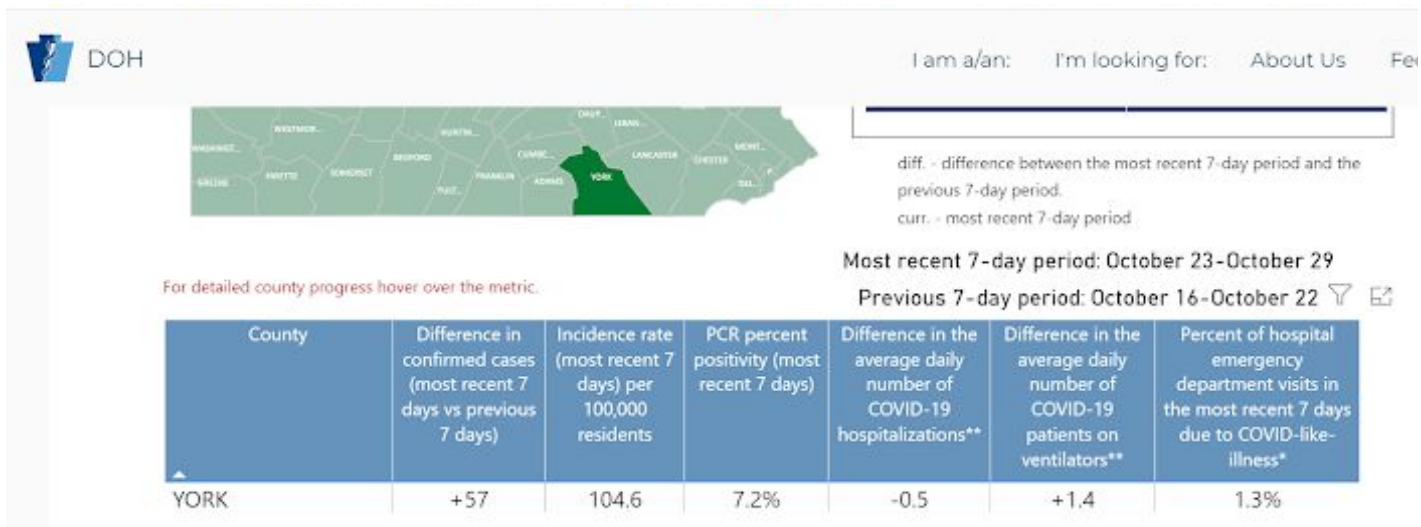
Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

Building Closure

As you may know by now, this morning, we were advised by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) to close Wallace Elementary School through Friday, November 13, 2020, due to the number of positive cases in the building. As of now, the plan is for Wallace students to return to the building on Monday, November 16, 2020. The temporary closure is meant to help stop any further spread of COVID-19 among the building's students, faculty, and staff. Please read below for more information on possible closures.

COVID-19 Impact

On Monday, November 2, 2020, I received the unwelcome news that York County moved into the substantial rate of incidence column of the PADOH's [Early Warning Monitoring System](#).



In a virtual meeting with superintendents from across York County, representatives from the PADOH and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) outlined what this means for school districts in the county. In a nutshell, we are currently in week one of this designation. We will meet again on Monday, November 9th, where those representatives will review our status and provide recommendations if we are again in the substantial incidence rate column. In that case, we begin looking at a temporary shutdown of the entire District and a pivot to virtual learning to help mitigate the community spread.

When it comes to mitigating the spread of COVID-19, the District can only control what happens within our buildings' walls, and we have been successful in our efforts. At this point, even though most of the

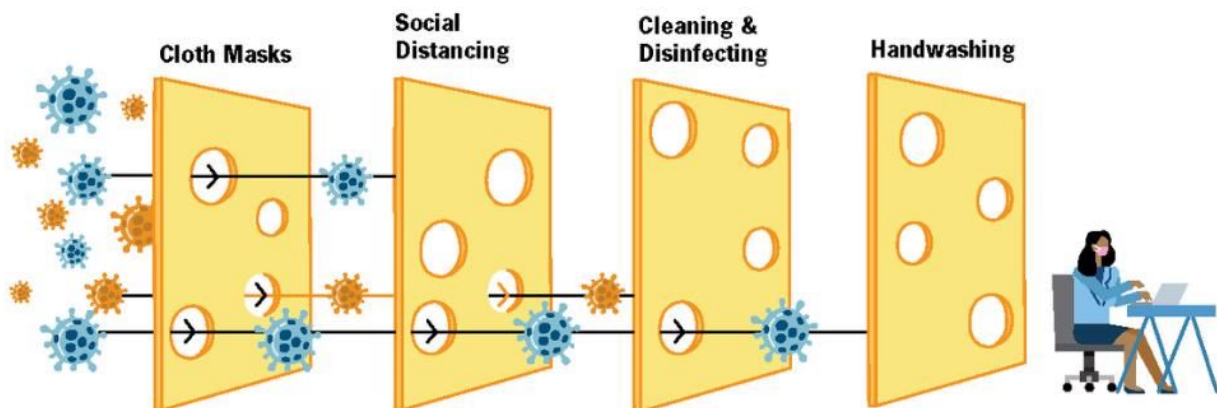
transmission of COVID-19 is occurring outside of our facilities, positive cases involving our students and staff may still lead to a building closure. As we have seen with Wallace Elementary, we may have no choice as the PADOH determines these closures.

The fact is, most of our families want and NEED the option of in-person learning. The best way to keep COVID-19 out of our schools and our buildings open to students is to practice healthy habits and encourage family members to do the same. Please continue to monitor symptoms and report them to our school nurses, along with any testing for COVID-19 and close contact with any positive cases. The symptom monitoring tool and nurse contact information can be found in the [Family Information Packet](#).

Keep in mind that if we do have to close a school to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, we not only have to move classes to a virtual platform, but we must also cancel all co-curricular activities - this includes all athletics.

I shared the graphic below in last week's communication that depicts how layering mitigation efforts can effectively control the spread of COVID-19. As I mentioned, we have found success in applying this approach when combined with our contact tracing efforts and health monitoring. You can find more COVID-19 resources on our [website](#).

Each of the strategies below is already a component of West York's Health and Safety Plan.



Source: [Policylab.chop.edu](https://policylab.chop.edu)

Reminders:

Inclement Weather Days

We are getting close to the time of year when we begin to anticipate inclement weather days. Because the pandemic forced us all to provide and receive instruction virtually, we can apply our Distance-learning platform to inclement weather days, just like our Wednesday Distance-learning Days. This is good news because we will not have to use snow/emergency make-up days.

Since Distance-learning days are handled differently at each building, be on the look-out for communication from your building's principal regarding how these days will look for your children. Also, since we can now use a distance learning option for weather events, we may limit or eliminate 2-hour delays.

For reference, the current 2020-21 District calendar may be found [here](#).

Student Meal Programs- Update

We have received notice from the USDA that they have extended the free breakfast and lunch program through June 30, 2021. This is terrific news for our families and means that **all breakfast and lunch meals across the District shall be provided, free of charge, to ALL students**. This includes pick-up meals for WY Cyber Academy students as well as meals for anyone 18 and under who reside in our District. Please follow your child's home building guidelines for ordering pick-up meals. At the secondary level, a second meal may be purchased at the regular meal rate. Menus for all buildings are posted on our website. More information may be found on our [website](#). Please contact Mr. Scott Rutkowski at scrutkowski@wyasd.org if you have any questions.

Spectators at Sporting Events

Please keep in mind that while spectators at District events are still limited, everyone may watch these events via live stream. Links to each live stream channel for District teams may be found [here](#).

Building Visitors

All visitors must complete a screening form and have their temperature taken at each building. They will be expected to adhere to posted guidelines for social distancing to include wearing facemasks until further notice.

The Blue & White

The Blue & White is published at the end of each week and delivered via email. Past issues may be found [here](#). Please continue to share your positive photos throughout the year - it's a bright spot for all of us! You can send them to cmgreco@wyasd.org.

Best wishes for a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Davies

Superintendent of Schools