



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

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

Friday, November 13, 2020

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

COVID-19 Impact

Last Friday, I shared with everyone that York County's COVID-19 status had been in the substantial rate of incidence for the week. Earlier this week, I was able to report that we were notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) that York County moved out of the substantial range and back to the moderate range. However, given the number of new positive cases being reported by the PADoH over the past few days, I have every reason to believe that York County will soon be back in the substantial range. That information and the metrics used to determine the substantial range may be found on the PADoH's website [Early Warning Monitoring System](#).

What does this mean for West York? A status change from moderate to substantial may have an impact on the District's ability to keep our buildings open if the status remains in the substantial range for a period of time.

From the beginning of the 2020-21 school year and the implementation of our Health and Safety Plan, our stance has been that students learn best when in the classroom, and our goal has been to provide students and families with the option of in-person learning for as long as possible. Fortunately, we are not yet in a position where we need to move to a temporary virtual instructional model. However, as the virus continues to spread at an increasing rate, we may need to make that pivot sooner than we once thought. Please know that if we do need to transition to all virtual, it will be to contain/mitigate the spread of the virus within our buildings and keep students and staff safe.

In light of this, I am asking all families to begin preparing for this possibility by having a contingency plan in place that might include childcare and informing employers.

As I conveyed in last week's communication 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 specific 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 and students 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 specific building or the entire District 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.

Districtwide Current COVID-19 Data as of Friday, November 13, 2020 2:00 PM	
Positive Cases	In Quarantine
10	106
Please know that these numbers can fluctuate from day-to-day and sometimes hour-by-hour as cases move in and out of quarantine and positive status.	

An Important Note About What Quarantine Means

The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) defines quarantine as:

Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of the disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

You can find more COVID-19 resources on our [website](#).

For those who are quarantined, please understand that this means:

- No trips outside the home
- Separation from others, even in the home, to the extent possible
- No participation in sports or other activities - period.
- Following mitigation practices (masks, handwashing, etc) at all times
- Monitoring your health/health of children for symptoms as outlined in the graphic below

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (100 or higher) • Cough • Shortness of breath • Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore throat • Runny nose/congestion • Chills • New lack of smell or taste • Muscle pain • Nausea or vomiting • Headache • Diarrhea

Important Information and Reminders:

Holiday Meals:

In collaboration with the Hunger-Free York program at the York County Food Bank, WYASD families who qualify (based on the number in household and weekly income of \$628 or less) may register for a free holiday meal box that will include a turkey and items to create your holiday meal. The deadline to register is Sunday, November 22, 2020. Pick up will be at the West York Middle School, Adams Street, Door# 10, on Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 3-6 PM. [Register here.](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 17, 2020	6:30 PM	Board Meeting
December 1, 2020	5:30 PM	Educational Programming Committee (EPC) Meeting
December 1, 2020	7:00 PM	Reorganization Meeting of the Board
December 1, 2020		Work Session Meeting (immediately following reorg)
December 8, 2020	5:00 PM	Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
December 8, 2020	6:30 PM	Board Meeting
December 14, 2020	5:30 PM	Co-curricular Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020	5:30 PM	PRIDE Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020	6:30 PM	Facilities Committee Meeting

All meetings are open to the public to attend in-person (limited capacity), via Zoom, and may be viewed via livestream on the District YouTube channel. More information may be found on our [website](#).

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