



This communication supersedes all previous communication.

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

Friday, September 4, 2020

Greetings, West York Area School District Community:

As a parent, I know making the decision to place my child in the care of someone else is never easy, and in the end it comes down to trust and confidence. As I've been visiting buildings and seeing students in their classrooms over the past two weeks, I couldn't help but feel immense gratitude toward our families for the trust and confidence you have placed in the District by having your children attend our schools in the midst of a global pandemic. Please know, ensuring the safety and health of our students and staff continues to be at the forefront of our decisions.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts of our administrators, teachers, and staff who have worked throughout the summer to plan and prepare for the many possible situations that could unfold when we opened school this year. All of this advance planning has been well worth it as we have already had the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) intervene and quarantine a classroom along with several other students and staff due to possibly being in close contact with a potential case of COVID-19. The families of the students involved have each received individual communications regarding how the quarantine will impact their child(ren).

The most important thing to know right now is that we do not have any positive cases reported among our students, faculty, or staff.

I would like to use this as an opportunity to reemphasize that we are limiting our communication of these events to **only the families with children in close contact, as determined by the PADoH**. Please know that if you were not contacted by us regarding this situation (or any future situation), your child has **NOT been identified to be at risk of exposure**. One of the reasons we are limiting the communication to only those directly impacted is to make every possible attempt to make individual phone calls to each family and then be available to answer questions related to each specific case. **If we do have a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will notify the families of the impacted school building. We will only notify the entire West York community if we have a situation where multiple buildings have been impacted by an outbreak.**

I cannot stress enough that quarantining classrooms, individual students, or staff due to possible exposure is **NOT** something we take lightly, nor is it up to us when quarantine orders are issued. We have followed and will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the PADoH with regard to keeping our buildings safe so we can stay open for our students to learn. We continue to believe that in-person instruction is best, and we want our families to have the choice to send their children to our schools as much as possible and as long as possible.

Keeping our schools open requires everyone's help every day. The following are two ways that everyone can pitch in to keep West York schools open to to students:

1. Use the symptom monitoring tool with each of your school age children prior to sending them every day, and if your child is demonstrating symptoms - please keep them home - and contact your school nurse. The symptom monitoring tool and nurse contact information can be found in the [Family Information Packet](#).

- If students or family members have been in close contact with someone known to have tested positive for COVID-19, please keep everyone home and reach out to the nurse in your child's building, immediately. *Close contact is defined as any individual who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.*

These two proactive measures will go a long way in preventing a large scale quarantine while also saving our families and staff a lot of stress and worry.

Below are links that will provide important information regarding the processes we have in place for notifying families and implementing quarantine measures, should the need arise.

- WYASD Notification Process: [Family Packet](#) / [Paquete Familiar en Español](#).
- This linked [Flowchart](#), prepared by the PA Department of Health, is the process we will follow when a student or staff member becomes symptomatic.
- This linked [Webinar](#), also prepared by the PA Department of Health, offers guidance for K-12 schools in PA to follow after identifying possible cases within their districts. This also provides an idea of how long your quarantine may last, and why.
- [Level of Transmission in Pennsylvania counties](#) - link to excel document may be found on the right side of the linked page. The data, updated weekly, informs what actions we will take when somebody tests positive for Covid-19.
- The PA Department of Health [chart](#) for determining a school district's response when positive cases are identified within a district. This chart is also outlined below:

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19			
It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based instructional model more quickly. DOH will provide proactive consultative assistance to school entities should such an outbreak occur.			
Level of Transmission in the County	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day Period		
	1 student or 1 staff	2-4 students/staff in same school building OR <5% of total number of students/staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with individual cases who are not household contacts	5+ students/staff in same school building OR ≥5% of total number of students/ staff in a school building are cases OR Multiple school buildings with 2-4 cases who are not household contacts
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 3-5 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not need to close • Clean area(s) where case spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 5-7 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school(s) for 5-7 days* • Clean area(s) where cases spent time • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH and PDE recommend a full remote learning model for all schools in a county with a substantial level of community transmission 		
*When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and the number of cases. This allows public health staff the necessary time to complete case investigations and contact tracing, and to provide schools with other appropriate public health advice like cleaning and disinfecting.			

Student Meal Programs

We have received notice from the USDA that beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2020, through Thursday, December 31, 2020, **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 resides 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. Should this program be extended past December 31st, we will let everyone know.

West York Cyber Academy

For those families who have children enrolled in the West York Cyber Academy, we have a faculty directory should you need to contact your child's teacher. The directory is located on our website, and may be found via [this link](#).

Health and Safety Plan

At next week's Work Session meeting of the Board, we will be presenting the District Health and Safety Plan for discussion as we have updated the section on the requirement for face coverings for bus drivers. The update will be voted on at the September 15th meeting.

Important Reminders *Presented in prior updates

- **Monday, September 7, 2020** - Labor Day Holiday, all buildings closed
- **District Calendar** - The current 2020-21 District calendar may be found [here](#).
- **Board Meetings** - Due to the limit of 25 people in an indoor meeting, we are asking that the public pre-registers for any Board or Board Committee meetings that they would like to attend in person. In addition to allowing in-person meetings of no more than 25, we will continue to live stream and host the meetings through Zoom webinars so that everyone has an opportunity to participate. Links to register for both September Board meetings are available on our [website](#). A registration link for the EPC meeting will be forthcoming.
 - On **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**, at 7:00 pm, we will hold our monthly Work Session Meeting of the Board. All are welcome to attend. Prior to the meeting, we will hold our monthly Educational Programming Committee (EPC) meeting which will begin at 5:30 PM.
 - On **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**, at 6:30 PM, we will hold our monthly voting Board. All are welcome to attend.
- **Building Visitors:** All visitors must complete a screening form and have their temperature taken at each building and will be expected to adhere to posted guidelines for social distancing to include wearing facemasks until further notice.
- **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 restful holiday weekend.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Davies
Superintendent of Schools