



Message from the Superintendent

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

Greetings, West York Community:

With the onset of confirmed COVID-19 Pandemic cases in Pennsylvania and reports of possible exposures, there are many questions about the District's plans with regard to COVID-19. It is my hope that this communication will answer some of those questions and dispel the rumors that have been circulating within the District and community. There are currently no known cases in West York Area School District, or associated with the District.

As you know from our previous communication, we have instituted a District-wide committee to oversee our response to COVID-19. The District has been proactively taking measures to sanitize buildings and instruct students and staff on preventative measures. Additionally, our contracted transportation service, Reliance Transportation, has taken proactive measures to keep their buses sanitized. We are receiving daily briefings from the York County Emergency Management Services, and we are monitoring information from the [PA Department of Health](#), the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC), and other school districts. This, and other information, is located on our [website](#).

We know the biggest question for our families right now is, "what if" - what if we have a case in York County? What if we have a possible case in West York? Will schools close? If so, which ones, and for how long, etc?

Our response to any situation that might arise will be based on the guidance from the CDC ([Link 1](#)) ([Link 2](#)) regarding exposure as well as guidance from the [PA Department of Health](#) as it relates specifically to York County. We have been in contact with York County representation from the PA Department of Health, and they do have a plan in place to notify and guide schools should we see local and/or District [Presumptive Positive](#) cases. To that end, our plan is that if a presumptive positive case arises in York County, we will look at the individual case and assess the impact it may, or may not have, on the District as a whole. Any decision to alter schedules, cancel events, etc. will be made in collaboration with the PA Department of Health.

Our primary focus right now is to do everything we can to keep our students, faculty, and staff healthy. Should we be faced with making decisions about closing school(s) or canceling events, we will do so

quickly and with the safety of not only our students, faculty, and staff in mind, but the general community, as well. This information will be conveyed via Blackboard and our website.

We are also working on plans for what student instruction might look like at all levels in the event of school closures. Tomorrow we will be attending a state-wide webinar with the Department of Education regarding COVID-19. If additional information or recommendations are communicated through that webinar, we will update all stakeholders via Blackboard and our District Website.

An important piece of our District-wide plan is knowing whether or not our District households have internet access and access to a laptop, desktop computer, or Chromebook. Please take a moment to respond to the [survey](#) that has been sent out, and help us by letting us know if you know of households that may not have these options.

Please refer to this webpage for updates.

Sincerely,
Todd M. Davies
Superintendent