

Determining Instructional Models & School/District Closure

Source:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools in Determining Instructional Models:

This chart below, using measurements from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, identifies thresholds representing low, moderate, or substantial community transmission of COVID-19, and corresponding instructional models recommended by the Departments of Health and Education.

For ease of use, once per week, the Department of Education will publish a list identifying the level of community transmission in each county over the most recent 7-day reporting period. This list is available on this page in the section called: Level of Community Transmission Table.

If fewer than 10 new cases are reported in a county in the most recent 7-day reporting period, the county will automatically qualify as exhibiting a low level of community transmission.

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full in-person Model OR Blended Learning Model

FROM PDE Website 10-20-2020 (posted there Aug 10, 2020/August 13, 2020 respectively)

Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Blended Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

Transitioning Between Instructional Models

A county's corresponding threshold may change week-by-week as incidence and percent positivity rates rise and fall. **In order to confirm stability of county transmission, when a county's corresponding threshold changes, school entities should wait to see the results from the next 7-day reporting period before considering a change to their instructional models.** To ensure the most effective transition for students, it may be appropriate for a school to wait even longer, up to a full marking period, to transition to an instructional model that increases in-person instruction.

It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based model more quickly.

The Department of Health will provide proactive consultative assistance to school entities should such an outbreak occur.

Instructional Model Definitions

Various terms are used to describe the manner by which schools reduce the transmission of disease through alternative instructional models. No matter which instructional model a school entity has selected, schools must implement the Health and Safety Plans approved by their local governing body and all associated mitigation strategies, including applicable orders of the Secretary of Health.

For the purpose of these recommendations, the following terms are used:

FROM PDE Website 10-20-2020 (posted there Aug 10, 2020/August 13, 2020 respectively)

- **Full In-person Model:** School is open each day with in-person instruction for all students (with some students/staff in a remote setting as health and safety concerns require).
- **Blended (Hybrid) Learning Model:** Any model in which the [number of students in a school building is reduced to allow for social distancing of 6 feet](#). This may be accomplished in many ways, including split schedules, schedules that rotate by day or week, or similar approaches. For these recommendations, blended learning also includes scaffolded approaches that treat grade levels in a differentiated manner.
- **Full Remote Learning Model:** Any model in which all students engage in all learning remotely.

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

Source:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx>

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.

<p><u>Level of Community Transmission in the County</u></p>	<p>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</p>	<p>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</p>	<p>Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a 14-day period:</p>
<p>Low</p>	<p>1 student or 1 staff</p> <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 	<p>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</p> <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 	<p>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</p> <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 14 days* • Clean entire school(s) • Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine
Substantial	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>	<u>DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission</u>

*When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and 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.