

February 25, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Coatesville Area School District will begin to offer additional in-person learning for our students as COVID transmission rates continue to fall. The District has been following guidance from the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) throughout the pandemic. The Health Department has updated guidance to recommend 6 feet but no less than 3 feet between students. This will allow us to bring more students into our schools more consistently.

- **In Grades K - 7, we will be able to offer in-person learning four to five days a week.** The hybrid option would no longer be available. (Every other Wednesday would remain a virtual day since many are of these are already scheduled for important teacher training sessions, we need to complete by the end of the school year.)
- **In Grades 8 - 12, students will be able to attend in-person learning two to three days a week, in a A/B hybrid model.** (Every other Wednesday would remain a virtual day.)
- **Parents will also be able to choose a fully remote option.**

These changes will begin no earlier than March 15 and will be in effect for the duration of the school year.

[You are receiving a commitment form to choose an option for your child. CLICK HERE to view this form.](#) We understand we *just* surveyed parents, but with this new guidance we anticipate our learning model will be able to change. We apologize for the inconvenience. **It is *critical* that all parents complete this new form so we can plan accordingly. This Commitment Form closes on March 2.**

We have developed a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about this change.

Based on the strength of successful existing mitigation efforts in Chester County schools, CCHD is updating guidance in the following manner:

- 6 feet of distance but no less than 3 feet between students is recommended. A distance of 6 feet between staff and students and between all adults is still recommended, even if distancing between students is reduced. Guidance has not changed from 6 feet separation during unmasked lunches, and our school district is committed to providing that.
- If the County's Community Transmission Level (which includes Incidence Rate and Positivity rate) changes to a lower or higher level for three consecutive weeks, schools are encouraged to reassess their instructional model and adjust if necessary. In a call with school superintendents, the CCHD said the new distancing should go into effect only after the county reaches COVID levels below 100 in 100,000 cases for three consecutive weeks. Currently, Chester County is at 103 in 100,000 cases. These rates are trending downward. They can be found - [HERE](#)
- According to guidance, the earliest we would be able to make a transition to increased in-person learning would be March 15.

- Masking (not gaiters), increased hygiene, contact tracing, and other mitigation efforts will remain in place.
- Contact tracing will still be based on a close contact being less than 6 feet from a person for 15 minutes.
- If classes or a school must be closed due to linked transmission, virtual learning will resume.
- If students are quarantined, they may learn remotely. A full-time remote option will be available, but parents will be asked to make a commitment to a learning model.
- We continue to advocate for vaccinations for our staff and hope the coming weeks will see an increase in our staff's ability to obtain these vaccinations. As you know, Pennsylvania has struggled significantly with vaccine distribution.

If you have questions, you can contact your child's school principal, or, email casdreturns@casdschools.org.

Please do not forget to complete the Commitment Form by Tuesday, March 2.

Thank you for your support and patience. We look forward to welcoming more students back to our schools.

Tomás Hanna, Superintendent