

Update on Instructional Models, Metrics, and Reopening Considerations

School Board Legislative/ Action Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2020

Presented by

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Superintendent of Schools





Purpose and Considerations

To transition from fully-remote program to a hybrid or full in-person instructional model, relevant data, their trends, and formal guidance will be examined on an ongoing basis to inform a recommendation.

Guidance

- Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) Guidance

Data

- Montgomery County Incidence Rates
- Montgomery County Positivity Rates
- Borough of Hatboro and Township of Horsham Incidence Rates
- Borough of Hatboro and Township of Horsham Positivity Rates



Positivity Rates

What is the *percent positive* and why does it matter?

“The percent positive is ... the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive, or: $(\text{positive tests}) / (\text{total tests}) \times 100\%$. The percent positive (sometimes called the “percent positive rate” or “positivity rate”) helps public health officials answer questions such as:

- What is the current level of SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) transmission in the community?
- Are we doing enough testing for the amount of people who are getting infected?

The percent positive will be high if the number of positive tests is too high, or if the number of total tests is too low. A higher percent positive suggests higher transmission and that there are likely more people with coronavirus in the community who haven’t been tested yet.

The percent positive is a critical measure because it gives us an indication how widespread infection is in the area where the testing is occurring—and whether levels of testing are keeping up with levels of disease transmission.”

(Source: Johns Hopkins School of Public Health)



PDE and DOH

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.

Guidance Issued August 10, 2020

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



PDE and DOH

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

- **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.

Guidance Issued August 10, 2020

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Montgomery County has been in the Moderate Range Every Week



COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard



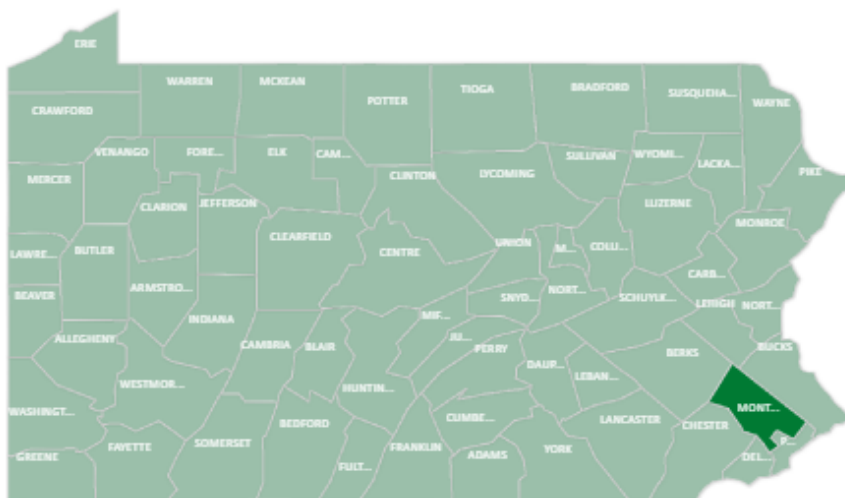
COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard

Updated on 9/11/2020

Select a county or multiple counties (CTRL+click) in the map to filter the table.

Page Navigation

All Counties



Pennsylvania

-490 Confirmed cases (diff.)	39.1 Incidence rate per 100,000 (curr.)
4.2% PCR percent positivity (curr.)	-20.3 Avg. daily hospitalizations (diff.)
-10.0 Avg. daily ventilators (diff.)	0.6% Hosp. visits due to CLI (curr.)

diff. - difference between the most recent 7-day period and the previous 7-day period.

curr. - most recent 7-day period

Most recent 7-day period: September 4-September 10

Previous 7-day period: August 28-September 3

For detailed county progress hover over the metric.

County	Difference in confirmed cases (most recent 7 days vs previous 7 days)	Incidence rate (most recent 7 days) per 100,000 residents	PCR percent positivity (most recent 7 days)	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 hospitalizations**	Difference in the average daily number of COVID-19 patients on ventilators**	Percent of hospital emergency department visits in the most recent 7 days due to COVID-like-illness*
MONTGOMERY	-5	37.2	3.3%	-0.7	-1.1	0.4%

Guidance Issued August 7, 2020



Metrics and Targets

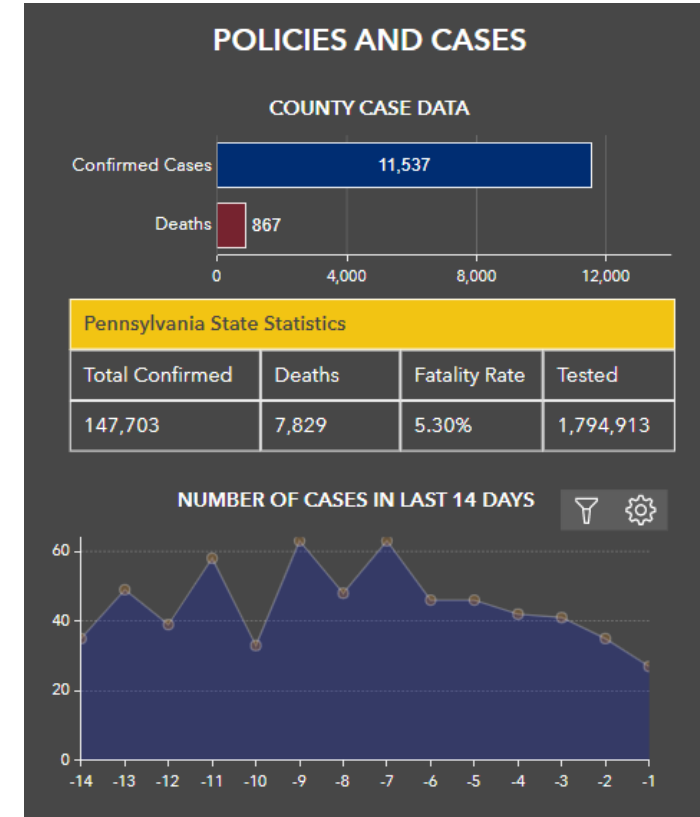
Metric for Consideration	Status: Met (M) or Not yet Met (NYM) the target					
	July 31 - Aug 6	Aug 7 - 13	Aug 14 - 20	Aug 21 - 27	Aug 28- Sep 3	Sep 4 - Sep 10
Montgomery County Positivity Rate Below 5% (Most recent 7 days)	2.5% (M)	2.9% (M)	3.0% (M)	3.1% (M)	3.2% (M)	3.3% (M)
Montgomery County Positivity Rate Declining Week-to-Week	N/A	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM
Montgomery County Incidence Rate <10 per 100,000 Residents (Calculation: # of new cases for the last 7 days/population X 100,000)	30.3 (NYM)	36.0 (NYM)	35.2 (NYM)	36.8 (NYM)	39.3 (NYM)	37.2 (NYM)
Township of Horsham and Borough of Hatboro newly reported cases over the past 7 days remaining steady or declining week-to-week *			2 (Hatboro); 9 (Horsham)	0 (Hatboro); 3 (Horsham) (M)	1 (Hatboro); 6 (Horsham) (NYM)	5 (Hatboro); 14 (Horsham) (NYM)
Township and Borough Positivity Rate below 5% and remaining steady or declining						N/A



Trends

Johns Hopkins Data for Montgomery County Daily New Cases Since Previous Day through September

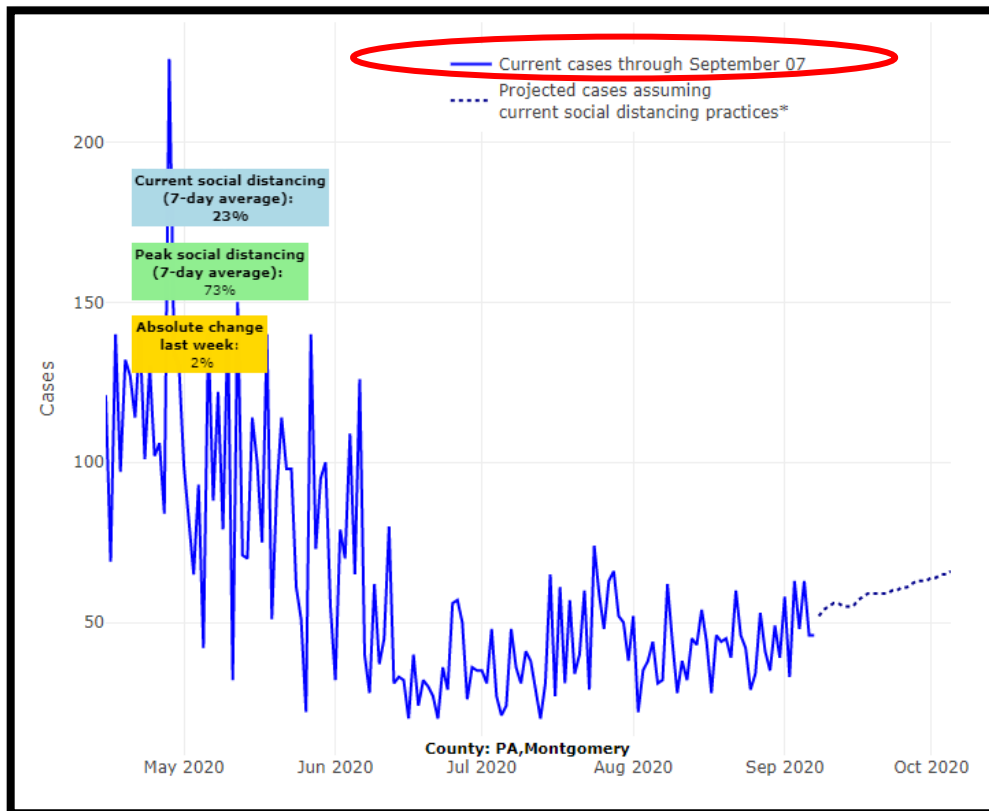
- 9/1: 39
- 9/2: 58
- 9/3: 33
- 9/4: 63
- 9/5: 48
- 9/6: 63
- 9/7: 46
- 9/8: 46
- 9/9: 42
- 9/10: 41
- 9/11: 35
- 9/12: 27



Johns Hopkins Data for Montgomery County 9/12/20



Projections



CHOP Data: Projected Cases for Montgomery County



Additional Considerations

In addition to metrics, trends, and projections, additional considerations when shifting to a new instructional model:

- Confidence in increasing in-person student experiences
 - Improved efficiency in testing protocols
 - Successful in-person experiences within HHSD and other educational institutions
- Programmatic feasibility of the “next” instructional model, including transportation, instructional scheduling, and logistical planning
- Assessment of family interest and student participation in the model
- Assessment of workforce availability



Updates from the Office of Public Health

Good news

- Testing protocols have improved, and results are being returned much more quickly. This allows contact tracing and identification to be much more efficient, reducing likelihood of spreading.

Concerns

- Gradual uptick in cases is not a good sign. Drastic decline of case counts and positivity rates may be immediately unlikely, but gradual decline is feasible and realistic, based on societal discipline.

Requests and needs

- Wear a mask
- Cut down on social events and gatherings. These are a major source of spread.
- Cooperation with the County Office of Public Health regarding communication and contact tracing is essential to slow the spread of the virus. The level of cooperation is insufficient, at about a 65-70% rate in the county, and harmful to the greater good. Reopening schools requires individual and community commitment, discipline, and cooperation.





Next Steps and Timeline

- Post presentation and metrics to the website on the “School Reopening 2020-21” page
- Update and publicly post metrics weekly
- Continually assess possible return and hybrid options, including bringing back different student groups
- Provide public updates at October meetings (10/5 and 10/19)
- Survey families and staff regarding interest and commitment to models
- Recommend programming model at October 19th School Board meeting