



The Path to a Full Return: Next Steps for Instructional Models

School Board Legislative/Action Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021

Presented by

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Superintendent of Schools



Objective

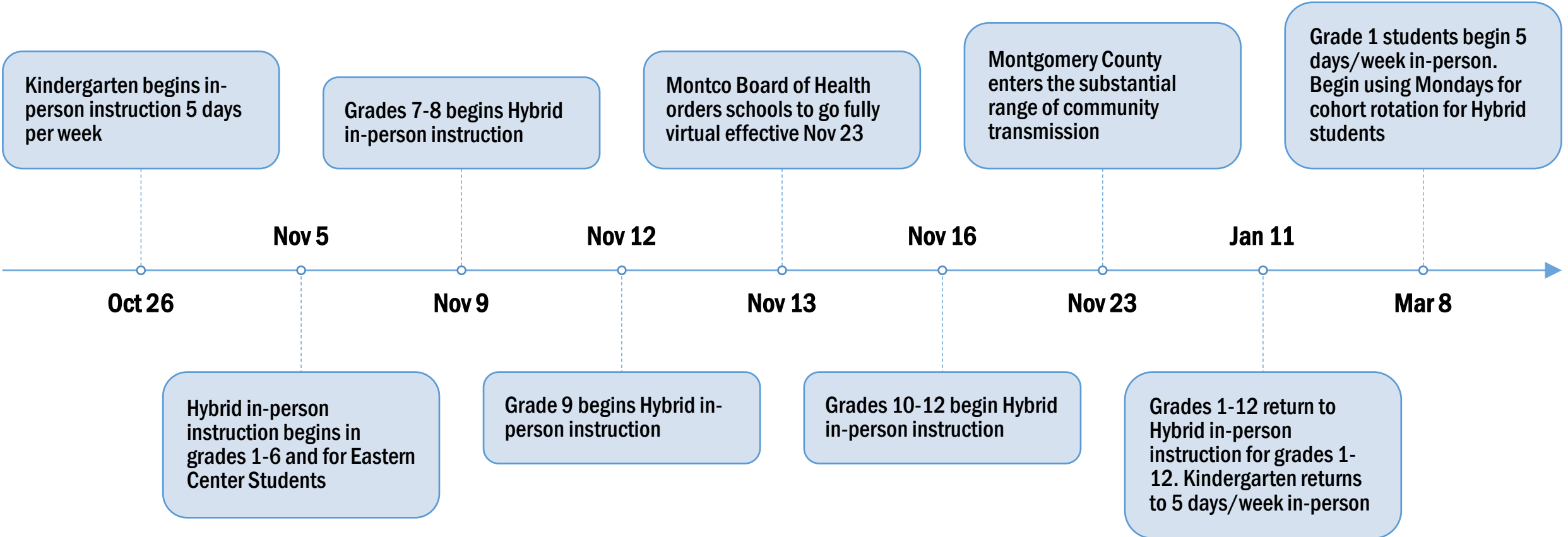


To return students to in-person instruction safely and equitably.

Given the recommendation for adding a 5-day in-person instructional model,

- 1. Provide an update on current metrics and guidance**
- 2. Review results of questionnaire and apply projections**
- 3. Assess impact of fully returning students to in-person instruction**

Timeline



PDE and PA DOH Guidance



Revised March 3, 2021

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
Montgomery County was in the <i>Moderate Range</i> from July 31 – November 6 and returned March 12				
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Blended Learning Model for Elementary Only OR Full Remote Learning Model
Montgomery County was in the <i>Substantial Range</i> from November 9 – March 12				

Revised Guidance language struck on March 3, 2021

Revised Guidance added on January 7, 2021

Week Of	Montco Incidence Rates	HHSD Incidence Rates	Montco Positivity Rates	HHSD Positivity Rates
Mar 11	87.1	N/A	4.8%	N/A
Mar 4	96.9	91.38	5.1%	3.88%
Feb 25	100.5	100.23	6.0%	5.84%
Feb 18	99.4	120.86	5.8%	7.43%
Feb 11	144.5	235.83	7.4%	7.01%
Feb 4	143.3	168.03	7.6%	7.09%

CDC Guidance



Each circled metric has moved one column in a positive direction since last month.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools That Do Not Implement Expanded Screening Testing

Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p>All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies: Universal and correct use of masks required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.</p> <p>Diagnostic testing²: Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing</p>			
<p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible³</p>		<p>Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance⁴ Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases;</p>
		<p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases⁵</p>

Questionnaire Responses



2,227 responses were collected,
which represents 52.3% of our current enrollment.

Grade	Response Rate
2	74.3%
3	71.6%
4	72.4%
5	68.6%
6	62%
7	59.2%
8	57.8%
9	51.1%
10	59.5%
11	49%
12	41.4%

Current Instructional Model of Respondents

Overall Respondents

Hybrid/Onsite	72.1%
Remote	27.9%

Elementary Respondents

Hybrid/Onsite	79.1%
Remote	20.9%

Secondary Respondents

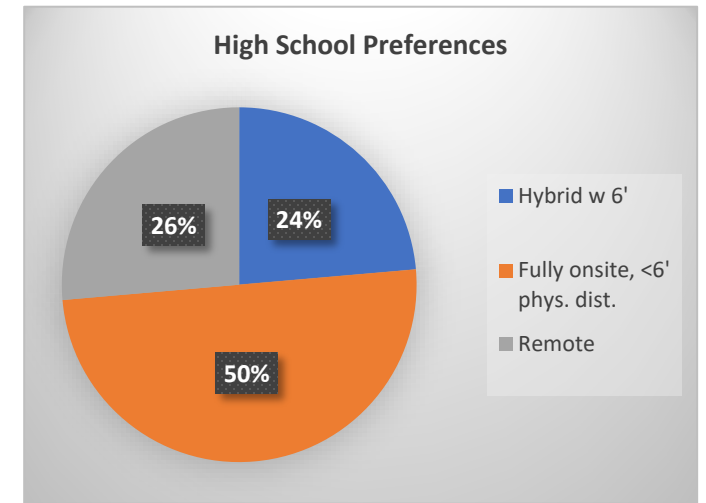
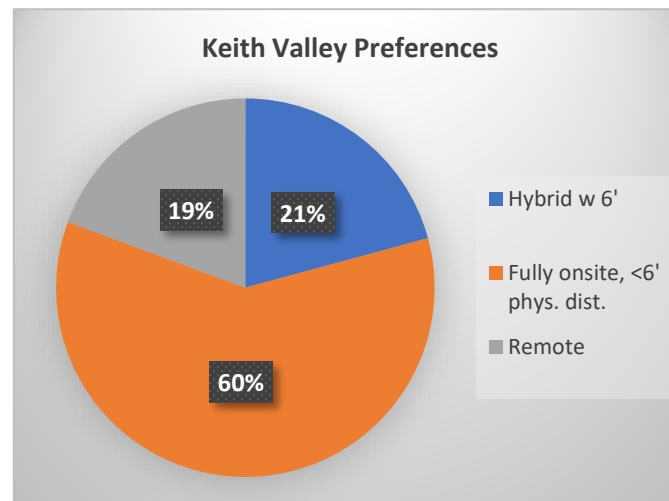
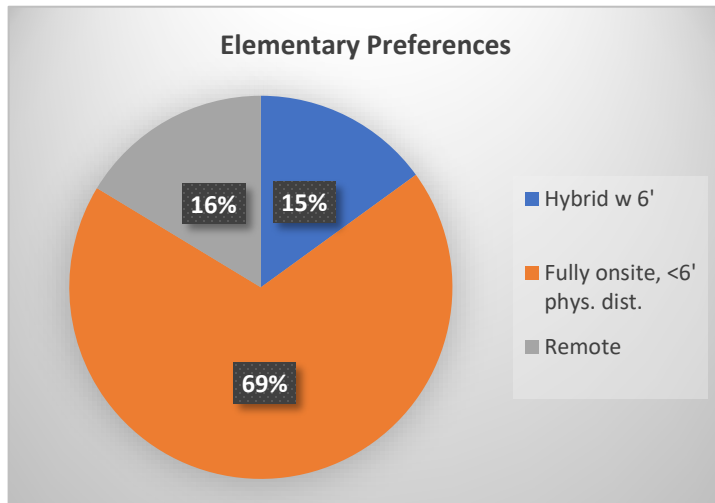
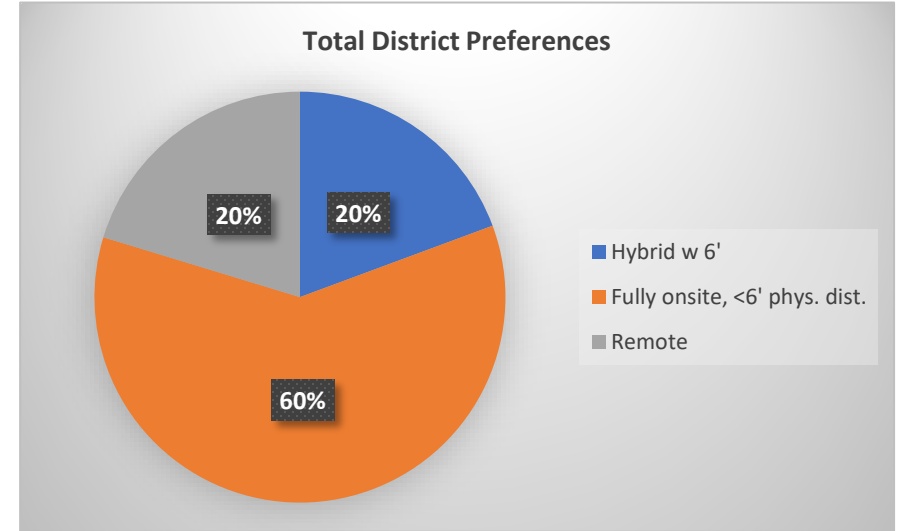
Hybrid/Onsite	67.1%
Remote	32.8%

Questionnaire Responses



Three-Model Preference:

- 60% overall prefer full in-person return
- Stronger preference for full return with younger students
- Given a choice of a full-return or a full-remote option, 20% of families would not be able to select their preferred model



Questionnaire Responses



Two-Model Preference:

- Overall, 69.2% of respondents would prefer full in-person return, even if distancing is less than six feet, while 29.9% prefer remote. This varies by school and level and is disaggregated by grade and school in the posted report.
- The two-model option would result in students changing between remote and in-person models (reflected by **n**)
- When analyzed by school and grade, it is unlikely that a transition to this model would require staffing shifts between the in-person or remote programs. However, a family's choice to transition between models at the Elementary level will result in a teacher change. A transition at the Secondary level may result in a teacher change.

Current Hybrid/Onsite Respondents (n=1589)

Full Return	89%
Remote	11% (n=174)

Current Remote Respondents (n=618)

Full Return	20.6% (n=127)
Remote	79.4%

Instructional Model



Current

Projected

	Fully In-Person 5 days/week	Hybrid In-Person 2-3 days/week	Fully Virtual
Kindergarten and Grade 1	79%	N/A	21%
Elementary Grades 2-5	N/A	78%	22%
Keith Valley Middle School	N/A	70%	30%
Hatboro-Horsham High School	N/A	55%	45%

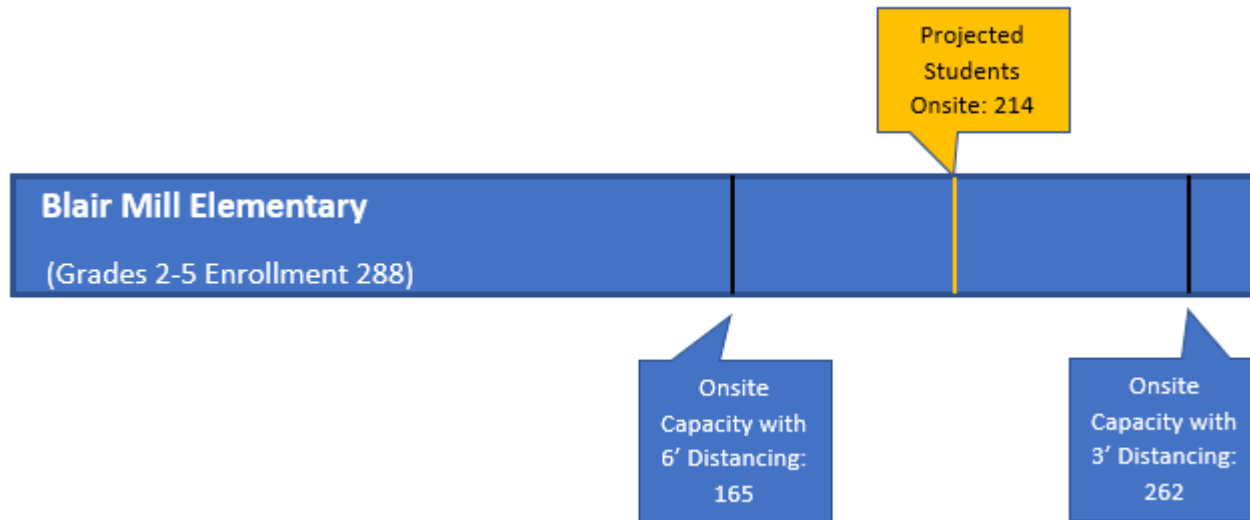
	Fully In-Person 5 days/week	Fully Virtual
Grades K-1	79%	21%
Grades 2-5	77%	23%
Keith Valley	70%	30%
High School	59%	41%

Feasibility and Impact



Offering a 5-day/week on-site program or a Fully Remote option

- Capacity analysis has been completed at all schools, assessing spaces for distancing implications at each site.
- Six feet physical distancing in the classroom would not be guaranteed but would be attained to the greatest extent possible. Distancing would not be less than 3 feet in the classroom.
- When face coverings are removed (lunch, snack, mask breaks), students will be separated by 6-foot distances.



Capacity Analysis Example: Blair Mill Elementary

This allows us to visualize the approximate physical distancing that will occur in each building based on the projections. In all cases, this will fall between 6 and 3 feet. Some variations will occur within buildings.

Feasibility and Impact



Offering a 5-day/week on-site program or a Fully Remote option

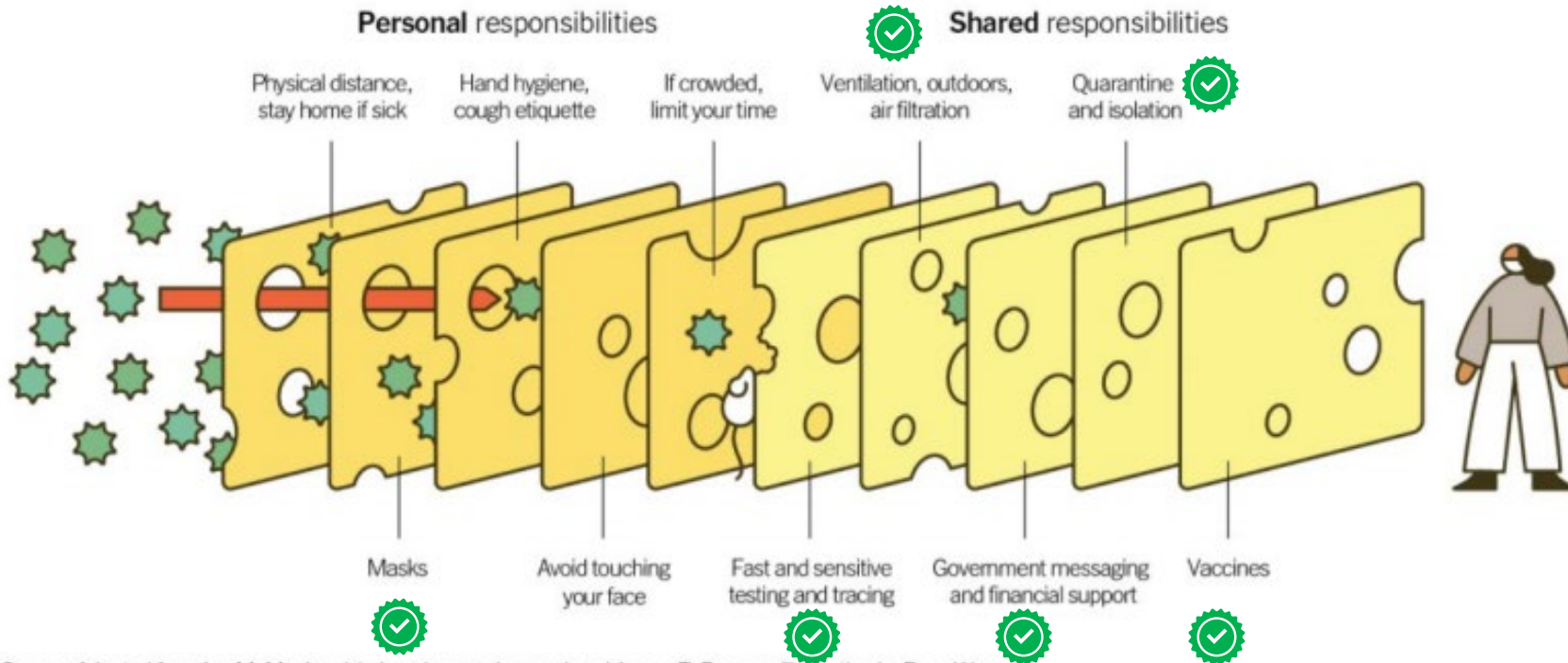
- While case counts and quarantines have declined both in the community and in our schools, they continue. The quarantining impact of in-school cases will be more impactful than it is now. Close contacts within 6 feet are required to quarantine. Expansion of antigen testing program will allow us to test asymptomatic students and staff out of quarantine.
- Building-level procedures, mitigation strategies, and restrictions will evolve even as we transition from hybrid to 5 days/in-person. We are not yet able to “return to normal.” Our masking protocols and health and safety plan will be followed vigilantly.
- Distancing on school buses cannot be guaranteed, which will have a greater impact on contact tracing.
- Families will be asked to commit to an instructional model for the remainder of the school year. Committing to the in-person program comes with the expectation of regular in-person attendance.



Mitigation Strategies

Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong



= Improved Mitigation

- Bipolar Ionization, HVAC, ventilation improvements, and increased outdoor access
- Rapidly improving on-site assurance testing, ability to test out of quarantine
- State-sponsored staff vaccination
- Grant and funding support for COVID-19 expenses
- Proven masking protocol compliance
- Continued data tracking on dashboard to assure a limited virus presence

Timing



Factors supporting the timing for an upcoming shift:

- **Decreasing positivity rates and incidence rates in HHSD and the county. Montgomery County entered the moderate range for transmission on the PDE and metric and is approaching the CDC metric for moderate.**
- **Strengthened multi-layered mitigation strategies in place, including societal and district vaccination progress and improved assurance testing.**
- **Support from CHOP Policy Lab doctors in interpreting numbers in context with CDC guidance and emerging research. Dr. David Rubin from CHOP has highlighted this early April time as being one where metrics project to be even more favorable. This, coupled with warmer weather, create a scenario where repopulating classrooms would make the most sense.**

Recommendation



Recommended Action: The Hatboro-Horsham School District will change to offer a 5 day/week in-person instructional model for all students in grades 2-12 to begin on Tuesday April 6, 2021.

- A fully virtual option will remain for all students in grades K-12.
- There is no additional action recommended for grades K and 1, as they are currently operating within this model.
- This recommendation removes hybrid as an instructional model option for students in 2-12, effective April 6.

If the Montgomery County and/or the municipality public health metrics reverse trend and return to the Substantial Range for community transmission over a 14-day period, the administration will consult with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for guidance on continuing with this proposal.

Timeline



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 14	15 Board Action Meeting	16 Family Commitment Form Opens	17	18	19	20
21 Family Commitment Form Closes	March 22-26 Administration will gather requests, adjust student schedules, re-schedule student services, make teacher/class changes, change student digital profiles (PowerSchool, Canvas, Seesaw, etc.), modify transportation routing, coordinate furniture movement, personalize lunch seating arrangements, and finalize logistical changes					27
28	29 Completion of all communication to families about changes	30 Early Dismissal	31 Spring Break	April 1 Spring Break	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break
4	5 Spring Break	6 In-Person 5 Day/Week Schedule Begins				

Looking Ahead: 2021-22



We are planning for two options for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Fully Virtual
- In-person 5 days/week for full days