

Dear Coatesville Area School District,

Tonight our School Board of Directors discussed our administration's proposed plan to offer additional in-person learning for our students as COVID transmission rates continue to fall. The Coatesville Area School District has been following guidance from the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) throughout the pandemic. Based on the strength of successful existing mitigation efforts in Chester County schools, CCHD is updating guidance in the following manner (official written guidance is expected by the end of the week):

- 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.

You can view tonight's presentation slides - [HERE](#)

We understand that our parents *just* completed a learning preference form. However, with this new guidance which will bring reduced social distancing for Coatesville, we feel it is only fair to ask parents again whether they would prefer an in-person (with reduced distancing) or remote option for their children. This will help us to determine whether we have space to bring all students back to our schools 5 days a week (with every other Wednesday remaining as a remote day since several of these are already scheduled for essential training for our teachers), or, if we will move to an A/B hybrid model. Your response to this commitment form is critical to our planning. We will send that to parents this week.

The District's proposed Comprehensive Plan was also presented at the Board Meeting. We are grateful for the collaboration and input from our community in helping us develop this plan, which will provide an important guide for the future of our District. You can view the presentation slides - [HERE](#) and the full plan here - [HERE](#). You can provide comments or ask questions at: [CompPlan@casdschools.org](mailto:CompPlan@casdschools.org)

We will communicate thoroughly with our community as we move forward on these important changes and initiatives. Tonight's school board meeting ran later than normal; We wanted to provide this update in a timely manner and thus the late time of this note.

This school year has presented innumerable challenges for educational communities across our country. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Tomas Hanna, Superintendent