



PHASED REOPENING UPDATE

December 3, 2020

Dear Hampton Families:

I hope everyone had a peaceful and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.

As you know, Hampton Township is currently providing fully remote instruction, with the intention of reopening our schools on December 10. **This letter will provide important details on the return-to-school models that will begin on December 10, so please give this communication your attention.**

Status of Allegheny County

Today, we were informed by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) that Allegheny County continues to see a record number of positive cases. The ACHD team indicated that the most significant virus spread scenarios are generally from small social gatherings of 10 or more persons and within households. As we have stated in the past, schools are not places where notable spread occurs in our County and region. The significant mitigation efforts that we employ remain effective. By following our Health and Safety Plan, we have maintained a safe teaching and learning environment for our faculty, staff, and families. The positive cases we reported to the community yesterday in our weekly report are unrelated to previous cases, and contact tracing indicated these cases were not due to school spread.

Due to the safe and educationally successful experience we had during the month of November and with continued information from ACHD that notable school spread is not occurring in schools throughout the county we are recommending a careful return to in person instruction following all mandated guidelines and requirements for mitigation and safety.

Currently, our County remains in a Substantial level of community transmission, as designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Last week, Governor Wolf issued a new order for school districts, which can be found [HERE](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and PDE now require that schools that plan to provide in-person instruction in counties with Substantial disease transmission follow specific guidelines and mandated orders. **Specifically**, if a school district **chooses to provide in-person instruction** while its residing County is exhibiting a Substantial level of community transmission, a **PDE Attestation Form** must be signed attesting to compliance with the recent [Updated Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) and strict adherence to guidelines for schools.

Our Intended Plan to Re-open Schools on December 10

HTSD is committed to the compliance and adherence required to provide In-person learning. Therefore, the attestation form has been signed by HTSD with the intent of reopening our schools on December 10. A copy of our attestation can be viewed [here](#).

Here is what that December 10 Reopening will look like at each of our schools:

Elementary School Reopening

Full Return to In-Person Instruction - Beginning 12/10

Because of our elementary schools' small population sizes, students will be able to return to full in-person instruction on December 10. Original schedules will resume for our elementary students with no changes.

High School and Middle School Reopening

Under an Enhanced Hybrid Model - Beginning 12/10

As mentioned earlier, by signing the attestation form, our District is signing a commitment to adhere to safety protocols to keep our schools safely open. The most significant aspect of this new order includes separating students by 6 feet during the lunch period so that they can remove their masks to eat as required (under the new masking order).

To follow this requirement in our high school and middle school cafeterias, the District must operate both schools in an **Enhanced Hybrid Model**, with Pod A and Pod B rotating their days of in-person instruction. Under the new Enhanced Hybrid Model, Learn At Home days will provide synchronous instruction. Also, Pods A and B will have alternating instructional days on Wednesdays. This schedule, shown below, will ensure that both Pod A and Pod B benefit from the same number of in-person instructional days.

Enhanced Secondary Hybrid Instructional Model

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6				A 10	B 11	12
13	A 14	B 15	A 16	A 17	B 18	19
20	A 21	B 22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	A 4	B 5	B 6	A 7	B 8	9
10	A 11	B 12	A 13	A 14	B 15	16
17	18	A 19	B 20	A 21	B 22	23
24	A 25	B 26	B 27	A 28	B 29	30

December 2020 - January 2021

- A** - 14 in-person instructional days
- B** - 14 in-person instructional days

Red blocks indicate a No School day

The letters "A", "B" represent the in-person instructional days that students will be attending school. Students will remain in the same pods, A or B, as in the previous hybrid schedule.

This enhanced hybrid plan not only supports our students with more frequent in-person instruction, it also provides students and parents with a consistent schedule. Students will attend school two to three days per week and eliminates the five-day break that occurred in the previous hybrid model. We recognize that this is a significant change from our previous hybrid model and it is one of the reasons that we want to communicate this to our families now for scheduling and planning purposes.

Students will attend school following the specific schedules noted above for the month of December and January. The district will extend this model and schedule into the second semester if necessary. However, should conditions improve in our county we would explore all appropriate options to add additional in person instruction time for our secondary students.

Updated Safety Guidelines

As we look ahead to seeing our students in-person, I wish to share with you two important recent health and safety updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and request your firm adherence to them:

- **Masking Order:** Everyone must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. Under the latest universal masking order, masks are to be worn both indoors and outdoors. **Face shields are no longer a substitute for masks under this new state update unless wearing a cloth mask is not feasible.** When in schools, scheduled mask breaks of no more than 10 minutes will be permitted when six feet of physical distancing is assured. Masks may also be removed when students are eating or drinking and at least six feet apart. Masks are also required for indoor physical activity.
- **Travel Guidance:** Effective now, any student over the age of 11 who travels out of state for more than 24 hours for any reason other than medical purposes has two options before he or she can return to school:
 - A negative COVID-19 test is obtained within 72 hours prior to returning to the state.
 - A student quarantines for 14 days upon their return to Pennsylvania with or without obtaining a COVID-19 test. A negative COVID-19 test within that period would enable the child to return to school upon receipt of the results.

In summary, upon obtaining a negative test or after the 14-day quarantine period concludes, the student may return to school. Find County COVID testing locations [here](#).

Monitoring the Metrics and Staying Prepared

While there is no notable evidence that COVID-19 is spread within schools, under Allegheny County's status as "Substantial," our school-specific closures, if implemented, would follow the metrics on the following page. We would be required to follow these rolling 14-day closure (Remote Learning) guidelines when we reopen on December 10. Cases that have occurred prior to and during our present Remote Learning status would not apply. We do expect that due to our close working relationship with our County Health Department that these mandated closures could be truncated as appropriate.

**Recommendation for Central, Poff and Wyland Elementary (<500 Students)
Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19**

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:
	1 student or 1 staff	2-4 students/staff in the same school building	5+ students/staff in same school building
Substantial†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 3-7 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

**Recommendation Hampton Middle School (500-900 Students)
Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19**

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:
	1-3 students or staff	4-6 students/staff in the same school building	7+ students/staff in same school building
Substantial†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 3-7 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

**Recommendation for Hampton High School (>900 Students)
Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19**

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-Day Period:
	1-5 students or staff	6-10 students/staff in the same school building	11+ students/staff in same school building
Substantial†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Clean area(s) where case spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 3-7 days* Clean area(s) where cases spent time Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site Close school(s) for 14 days* Clean entire school Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

*If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.

†DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission. Schools that choose to pursue in-person instruction and other models in which school buildings are utilized by students and/or staff should follow the recommendations here.

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

It is our sincere hope that these short-term closures listed above with Remote Learning will not be necessary. However, we all must do our part to keep each other safe. I want to thank you for the Talbot Spirit and resilience that has been demonstrated throughout this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Loughead
Superintendent of Schools