



April 1, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

The Southern Lehigh School District continues to navigate this challenging school year and again is a part of a region experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases. Please stress with your students the importance of enjoying this spring break in a safe manner while following common mitigation measures like wearing well-fitted face coverings, frequently washing/sanitizing hands, maintaining a physical distance, avoiding interactions with those outside your household, and limiting travel. Listed below are several updates;

- [Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of Case\(s\) of COVID-19 Update](#) - On Tuesday, PDE and the PADOH updated the guidance that determines the length of time of required school closures related to COVID-19. This update decreased the number of days that school districts would be required to close specific school buildings following a building meeting the criteria within the 14 Day Rolling Period. As a reminder, the stated purpose of school closures is to provide the public health staff at the PADOH with the time necessary to complete case investigations, contact tracing, and to provide schools with the appropriate advice around cleaning and disinfecting. Outlined below is a table that provides a more clear visual of the updated metrics.

School Building Classification	Number of COVID-19 Cases Physically Present in a 14 Day Rolling Period	Length of PADOH Required Closure	Number of COVID-19 Cases Physically Present in a 14 Day Rolling Period	Length of PADOH Required Closure
Hopewell & Liberty Bell	2 - 4 Cases	- In Communities with Low or Moderate Classification; 1 to 2 Day Remote Learning Shift - In Communities with Substantial Classification; 2 to 3 Day Remote Learning Closure	5+ Cases	- In Communities with Low, Moderate, or Substantial Classification; 5 Day Remote Learning Closure
JPLIS & SLMS	4 - 6 Cases		7+ Cases	
SLHS	6 - 10 Cases		11+ Cases	

- [Public Health Guidance for School Communities Update](#) - On Tuesday, PDE and the PADOH also updated the established Public Health Guidance for School Communities to bring that guidance inline with the most recent CDC update. As a reminder, Lehigh County remains in what the CDC would classify as a “High Level of Community Spread” (PADOH Substantial Community Spread) and as a result the only areas where the CDC, PADOH, and PDE recommend using Social Distancing of at least three feet would be Elementary Level Classrooms. Southern Lehigh will continue to distance students in Elementary Level Classrooms at a distance of at least five feet. All secondary classrooms will continue to remain at least six feet as cohorting is not common within the established structure of the SLSD secondary school buildings. Please note that despite this update the PADOH continues to use a "Close Contact" definition of within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more meaning that any situations where students are distanced at less than six feet will result in an increased number of students being identified as a close contact.



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Superintendent

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Enjoy spring break and remember that students return to school on Tuesday, April 6th. Please continue to complete [Daily Symptom Monitoring](#) with your students as it remains a critical component in ensuring that we can keep our students in school in person.

Kathleen Evison
Superintendent