



Wissahickon School District

True Blue with a Heart of Gold

Dear WSD Community:

At the Wissahickon School Board meeting last night – 11/30/20 – the Board of Directors voted to authorize the return to an in-person learning option starting next Monday, December 7th. This means all students will return to the learning program option that was in place prior to November 23rd (e.g. 100% in-person option at the elementary level, the hybrid program at the secondary level, or 100% virtual).

Per order by the PA Department of Health (PA DOH), all school districts choosing to offer an in-person option must comply with new requirements concerning (a) face coverings, and (b) compulsory by school closing rules that depend on school-specific COVID-19 data.

HOW DO THESE REQUIREMENTS IMPACT WSD?

- (A) **Face Coverings:** The PA DOH order regarding universal face coverings, effective November 18th, is already in place at WSD. This order requires that everyone must wear a face covering when indoors, irrespective of physical distance.
- (B) **Compulsory School Closings:** The second requirement for school closings is new and will be dependent on the number of positive COVID-19 cases **by school**, counting **in-person students and staff only, plus any virtual athletes** AND is based on a **“rolling 14 Day” case count**. When necessary, the school closings will be temporary (up to 14 days) to allow for “required remediations,” which include cleaning the school and conducting all necessary contact tracing. We anticipate that any closures at WSD will be of relatively limited duration due to the protocols we already have in place to meet remediation requirements.

Each school at WSD will begin tracking the daily positive cases of COVID-19, which will be accessible to the community via the WSD Monitoring Dashboard on our website. School closings will be based on the following breakdown:

	Must close for	Must close for
<u>PA Protocols (rolling 14 day period)</u>	<u>3-7 days*</u>	<u>14 days*</u>
"Small" schools (BBE)	2-4 cases	5+ cases
"Medium" schools (LGE, SGE, SCE)	4-6 cases	7+ cases
"Large" schools (Middle, WHS)	6-10 cases	11+ cases

*if necessary remediations can be accomplished sooner, then closure period can be reduced

We understand that these new requirements are confusing and encourage all families to review the presentation from last night's school board meeting and/or watch the board meeting.

[WSD School Board Meeting Presentation: School Reopening and Attestation Matters](#)

[Watch School Board Meeting: 11/30/20](#) (presentation beginning at 31:57)

Additionally, we encourage you to review the information provided by PA DOH and PDE as well as the COVID-19 data dashboards.

[PDE "Level of Transmission" Labels](#)

[PA DOH Revised Face Covering Requirements](#)

[PDE School-Specific Rules for Closing due to COVID-19 Case Counts](#)

[PA DOH Data Dashboard](#)

[Montco OPH Data Dashboard](#)

[Wissachickon School District Data Dashboard](#)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If a school is forced to close, there will be very little notice afforded to families to prepare for child care or other changes in your family's schedule. We apologize in advance for this, but there is no way around it given the new rules from the state. Also, as a reminder and unrelated to these new rules, there could be "functional closings" when staffing shortages make it impossible to adequately or safely operate the school, which would also provide very little notice.

We understand the difficulties that this creates for our families and will do our best to support you and keep you informed about the status of any possible school closures.

In planning for the return to school next Monday, December 7th, we would also like to remind families about the quarantine protocols for anyone who has traveled recently. The travel restrictions are available on our COVID-19 Resources and Information page on the website:

<https://www.wsdweb.org/covid-19/covid19-updates>.

As always, thank you for your cooperation and support.