



Dear Parents:

As you are aware, the elementary schools have been developing a plan to have children return to school safely for the 2020-21 school year. This plan is based on a hybrid of allowing some students to receive virtual learning from home while others will be in school in addition to many other modifications. I have had many questions about how the State of Pennsylvania's new guidance impacts our plan. Fortunately, since we have a blended learning model, our plan fits nicely into the new guidance. The new guidance provides objective measures when schools should not meet in person when community spread is high.

The State guidance relies on two standard public health metrics: incidence rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing. On a weekly basis, the PA Department of Health will publish the level of community transmission of COVID-19 for every county in the state and the state has recommended instructional models based on the level in each county.

Low	Full in-person model or blended learning model
Moderate	Blended learning model or full remote learning
Substantial	Full remote learning

Archdiocesan schools will be expected to utilize the recommended learning model two school days (48 hours) later. We have allowed for transition time so that schools could prepare and parents could arrange for child care.

The state guidance is fact based on actual cases and provides the necessary safeguards that we have consistently utilized for the operations. If the level of transmission increases to the substantial level, schools will need to switch to full remote learning. We recommend you prepare to be flexible.

Sincerely,

Andrew McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent for Elementary Schools