

February 21, 2021

Dear West Chester Area School District Community,

The Chester County Health Department [sent a letter to Chester and Delaware County public school superintendents](#) late Friday. The letter notifies schools that the Health Department is updating its guidance to support schools increasing the amount of in-person learning by reducing physical distancing, once certain thresholds for transmission are met, and providing other layers of COVID mitigation are still in place. The change is aligned with recent guidance from the CDC. A few important points:

- The guidance states that physical distancing of 6 feet but no less than 3 feet between students is recommended.
- County transmissions rates must be below 100 per 100,000 for three weeks before schools should consider less than six feet. (Chester County is currently at 103 cases per 100,000.)
- County PCR rates must be below 10%. (Chester County is currently at 5.68%.)
- A distance of 6 feet between staff and students is still recommended, even if student distancing is reduced.

[Each week the Chester County Health Department posts the latest updates.](#) We will continue to closely monitor these levels.

The West Chester Area School Board will be discussing these updates at its Monday night Board Meeting. Our administration will present a plan for returning students to additional in-person instruction at reduced physical distancing, and the Board is expected to vote on whether to approve this plan. While conditions and guidance throughout the pandemic have continued to emerge and change, this is a plan our staff have been developing for some time. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, February 22. You can view it at the [WCASD YouTube Channel](#).

To submit a comment for the February 22 board meeting, [please click here](#). Comments will be accepted until 12 noon on Monday, February 22.

As we work through this process we know that parents, students and staff will have a number of questions, and we are committed to thoroughly communicating. We will be quickly developing Frequently Asked Questions and other information for parents, and ask that parents begin to direct questions to: reopening@wcasd.net.

Thank you to our entire school community for the support, patience, and positivity you've provided to our staff and students during this extremely challenging year.

Sincerely

Dr. Jim Scanlon

Superintendent, West Chester Area School District