



Bloomsburg Area School District

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Below, please find an update on 3 critical areas for our school community as we navigate through the pandemic. References to DOH/PDE guidance are included where appropriate. This framework reflects our current understanding of community sentiment regarding our instructional model. As our context and situation evolves and changes, it will be important for our processes and frameworks to evolve and change as well. Our focus is on three specific items:

1. **Instructional Model Status**
2. **Resetting Building Case Counts**
3. **Introduction of Covid-19 Daily Dashboard**

Instructional Model Status

The recurring question we have been receiving since the Governor’s announcement on Thursday is, *why are we not closing school?* Below please find an overview of our rationale.

- **DOH/PDE Guidance:** We have been fortunate to not experience the number of positive Covid-19 or presumed positive cases as our neighboring districts. Should we reach those thresholds we will follow the guidelines.

Building	On-Campus Enrollment	COVID-19 Cases to Close School for 3-5 days	COVID-19 Cases to Close School for 14 days
Beaver-Main Elementary	90	2-4	5 or more
Memorial Elementary	338	2-4	5 or more
W.W. Evans Elementary	176	2-4	5 or more
Secondary Complex	583	4-6	7 or more

- **Local Health Team Recommendation:** Our local health team would make the recommendation to preemptively shift to remote learning. Given our case counts at this time, the current recommendation is to maintain our in-person instructional model.
- **Health Provider Request:** We have been asked regionally by hospital and direct care provider administrators and CEOs to keep our schools, especially our elementary buildings open if at all possible. For these essential services to function they need their workers, who often need us to have their kids during the day.
- **Governor Wolf’s December 10, 2020 Announcement:** The Governor’s announcement last week directly stated that schools could stay open, while following guidelines established by DOH/PDE. Below please find the excerpt related to schools and the link to the online guidance.

Schools and Extracurricular Activities

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders and the Mitigation, Enforcement and Immunity Protections Orders apply to schools?
The Orders do not apply to educational instruction but do apply to school activities within and outside of the classroom that are not related to educational instruction, including, but not limited to, assemblies, school board meetings, staff meetings, and extracurricular activities.

Do the event and gathering limitations in the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders include students and staff?
Yes, the Orders include all individuals present at the event or gathering, regardless of whether they are students, staff, or others.

Do the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Orders apply to school buses?
The Order does not apply to school buses. The [Department of Education](#) includes a list of best practices for safely transporting students.

Are school board meetings considered gatherings?
Yes. A school board meeting is a gathering and must follow the indoor gathering limits, and members must practice physical distancing, and comply with the Secretary’s Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings. Local education agencies should consider alternative ways to host these meetings including virtual.

Does the Limited-Time Targeted Mitigation Order apply to school cafeterias and college dining facilities?
No. The Orders do not apply to school cafeteria food services and college dining services, as those services are not considered to be a private catered event or offered by a restaurant.
See the [Department of Education’s website](#) for additional guidance and resources on schools.

