

The School District of Jenkintown
 West and Highland Avenue
 Jenkintown, PA 19046-2698

Dr. Jill A. Takacs
 Superintendent
 (215) 885-3722

November 10, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) met with school leaders in Montgomery County to inform us that our county has officially reached the status of Substantial Transmission of COVID-19. In August these two entities issued guidance to schools for instructional models based on levels of transmission as determined by Incidence Rates per 100,000 residents and Percent Positivity.

See chart below:

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full In-Person Model OR Blended Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to < 10%	Blended Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥ 100	OR	≥ 10%	Full Remote Learning Model

Montgomery County has moved from a “moderate” level of community transmission to a “substantial” level of community transmission. Montgomery County’s most recent incidence rate is 106.9 cases per 100,000 residents and the percent positivity is 5.2%. While the percent positivity rate is identified as “moderate” level of transmission, when one of the metrics is identified as “substantial,” the county is identified as having a “substantial” level of community transmission.

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Even though the large majority of school districts in Montgomery County (including Jenkintown), have not seen linked transmission in school, it may be the recommendation of PDE and PA DOH that if Montgomery County remains in a “substantial” level of community transmission next week, our schools will move to a virtual model of instruction for a short period of time, out of an abundance of caution. We are working closely with the Montgomery County Department of Health to examine data and recommendations. We will keep you posted as more information emerges.

Although, as of today, we are not changing our instructional model (both hybrid and virtual options remain), I want to alert you to the possibility of a shift to 100% virtual so that families can start to think about alternate childcare and scheduling plans.

Should this become a necessity, we would remain in a 100% virtual model for only as long as absolutely necessary. It is our goal to keep our schools open as much as possible this year.

To this end, I would like to reiterate information from my October 29, 2020 correspondence. As the holidays are approaching, we ask you to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Please be extremely diligent when attending any social gatherings, that extend beyond your immediate family. It is important to follow the established guidelines for wearing masks, and socially distancing from others, at least 6 feet. During the upcoming holidays, and celebratory events, individuals may be inclined to let their guard down regarding these established precautions.
2. The PA Department of Health has advised that if you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, by order of the Governor, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania.

Please be aware, if you choose to travel to the following states with your family (or if the state appears on the list at the time of your departure from PA), **students and staff will not be permitted to return to the school for fourteen (14) days from their return date back to PA.**

Alabama	Iowa	New Mexico	Wyoming
Alaska	Kansas	North Carolina	
Arizona	Kentucky	North Dakota	
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Oklahoma	
Colorado	Michigan	Rhode Island	
Connecticut	Minnesota	South Carolina	
Florida	Mississippi	South Dakota	
Georgia	Missouri	Tennessee	
Idaho	Montana	Texas	
Illinois	Nebraska	Utah	
Indiana	Nevada	Wisconsin	

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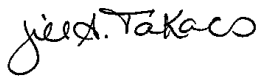
We encourage all families to stay informed of the latest information surrounding travel restrictions by visiting the Department of Health Website. Please check restricted states often, as they change frequently.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

To-date, we have experienced much success in keeping our doors open. This has been possible due to the extraordinary efforts of our students, families, and staff. We implore you to keep up your vigilance and conscious efforts as we head into the winter months.

Wishing everyone good health.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill A. Takacs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill A. Takacs, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools