

FREEPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 13, 2020

As you are aware, our region is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases and our local community and schools have not been exempt from it. However, our planning since the Spring of 2020 has us poised to respond to these challenges in responsible, safe ways - even as we do our very best to preserve as much face-to-face instruction as possible.

The following factors influence important decisions and any future decisions regarding any of our schools and the modes of instruction they are engaged in:

- The PA Depts. of Education and Health have both formally recommended to Armstrong and Butler County schools to revert to a fully remote instructional model until transmission rates recede. PDE and DOH recommend this when a county is in Substantial for at least 2 straight weeks. To reach Substantial, infection rates have to be >100 OR positivity rates >10%.

DOH released the following updated rates today:

	<u>Infection Rate</u>	<u>Positivity Rate</u>
Butler County	188.9	10.1%
Armstrong County	295.7	15.2%

Both Counties have now been in Substantial for at least two consecutive weeks. It is also important to note that zip code level data for our District also mirrors a Substantial level.

- The High School and Middle School have 4 active cases among them - all within a week's time. Since the beginning of the school year, all of our school cases but one have been associated with the Middle School and/or High School.
- Districtwide, 116 students are in quarantine - 103 of those are in the Middle School and High School.
- We have 7 teachers currently quarantined - 4 of those are in the Middle School and High School. Across our District, as in many other districts, we are at a tipping point when it comes to staffing our buildings and providing supervision on a daily basis.

Due to these factors, along with evidence of increase in community spread, at minimum, a temporary pause is warranted. Therefore, **both the High School and Middle School will revert to our Remote Instruction Model from Monday, November 16 through Thursday, November 19th.** Conditions will be re-evaluated next week to inform decisions moving forward. Our Elementary schools will remain on their normal schedule as we continue to monitor conditions unique to those buildings.

As we do every week, if you are in need of school meals, please place your orders at:
<https://forms.gle/qPcRdnkECci86LWR9>

Also, should you have technology related questions, please reach out to: helpdesk@freeport.k12.pa.us
Please also visit <http://bit.ly/fasdremoteinstruction> for important reminders and guidance on Remote Instruction.

Please join me in gratitude for our own frontline workers in our fabulous school nurses, our teachers and counselors, our custodians, our cafeteria staff, our bus drivers, our aides and dedicated substitute teachers, our office staff and administrators, and SPOs - all serving every day to keep children here and safe.

Please remain safe and vigilant. As our local hospitals and officials have reminded us, let's do our part to fight community spread by wearing our masks, keeping our distance, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when ill. Together, we WILL get through this!