

# Whitehall-Coplay School District

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Administration Building  
2940 MacArthur Road  
Whitehall, PA 18052-3408  
(610) 439-1431  
Fax: (610) 435-0124

LORIE D. HACKETT, Ed. D.  
*SUPERINTENDENT*  
CHRISTOPHER A. SCHIFFERT  
*ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT*  
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Dear Whitehall-Coplay Parent and Guardians,

November 3, 2020

In an effort to keep you informed I am writing to make you aware that yesterday, all school leaders in Lehigh County attended a meeting hosted by the PA Department of Health (DOH) and the PA Department of Education (PDE) regarding the county levels of transmission of COVID-19. In August, PDE and DOH released guidance relating to the model of instruction for school districts in relation to the current transmission rates of COVID at the individual county levels.

## [Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools](#)

Yesterday, PDE and DOH informed all Lehigh County schools that Lehigh County has moved from the “moderate” level of transmission to the “substantial” level of transmission. Counties with more than 10 cases, but less than 100 cases, per 100,000 residents would be considered “moderate” and Lehigh County’s rate is now at 101.9% Lehigh County’s percent positivity rate is 6%, which currently lies within the “moderate” level of transmission.

## [Level of Community Transmission Table](#)

Even though Lehigh County has met only one of the indicators it is still considered to be in the “substantial” level of transmission. In the “moderate” level of transmission the recommended instructional model is the blended model and the recommendation for the “substantial” level is to move to fully remote learning.

DOH and PDE recommended that schools in Lehigh County remain in the “moderate” level in regard to instructional learning models for the first week. If Lehigh County remains in the “substantial” level of transmission next week, PDE will likely recommend that schools move to fully remote learning. They also recommend that schools remain in remote learning until at least two consecutive weeks of data support returning to the “moderate” level of transmission.

At this point WCSD will **remain in the Blended Learning Model** until further information and guidance is received by DOH and PDE. In an effort to be proactive it is important that families have contingency plans in the event that the district needs to move to fully remote instruction, even though that is currently not our intention. We will continue to communicate information as decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Lorie Hackett  
Superintendent of Schools