

Whitehall-Coplay School District

WAYNE A. GRIM, *PRESIDENT*
WILLIAM P. FONZONE, Sr., *VICE-PRESIDENT*
GEORGE E. WILLIAMS., *TREASURER*
PATTY D. GAUGLER, *MEMBER*
NICHOLE L. HARTMAN, D.N.P., *MEMBER*
TINA J. KOREN, *MEMBER*
WILLIAM L. LEINER, Jr., *MEMBER*
GEORGE N. MAKHOUL, *MEMBER*
JOSEPH R. SHIELDS, *MEMBER*



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
J. MICHAEL MALAY Jr.
BUSINESS MANAGER
BROOKE A. CLARY
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
BARBARA A. CHOMIK, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
STEPHANIE MCFADDEN
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Whitehall-Coplay Parents / Guardians,

April 6, 2021

With the conclusion of Whitehall-Coplay School District's Spring Break, Gockley Elementary, Steckel Elementary, Zephyr Elementary and Whitehall-Coplay Middle School were closed for 5 consecutive days. As per guidance from the PA Department of Education regarding recommendations for school closure with COVID positive cases, all of these buildings will reset their rolling 14-day case count to zero beginning today, Tuesday, April 6th. Any positive cases where students were present in school during their infectious period beginning on April 6th, will be counted toward the new rolling 14-day case count for these buildings.

Please note that due to extracurricular activities taking place over Spring Break, and in accordance with the guidance provided by the PA Department of Education, the High School will not reset their 14-day rolling average case count.

As a reference to case counting and the 14-day rolling count, we wish to reiterate the following information that was provided in a previous communication sent out community wide on March 30, 2021...

As we continue to experience COVID-19 positive cases in our buildings, it is important to note that we are strictly adhering to the recommendations for schools following the identification of COVID-19 cases as it relates to school closure.

*In an effort to ensure transparency, we report all positive COVID-19 cases on the district's website on the COVID-19 Dashboard tab. However, as per PA Department of Education, not all cases reported will count in a building's rolling 14-day average for school closure recommendations. It is important to note that per the PA Department of Education, the Whitehall-Coplay Middle School and Whitehall High school fit the classification of a **Large (>900 students) School Building**, while our elementary buildings all classify as **Medium (500-900 students) School Buildings**.*

[Updated Recommendations on Handling COVID-19 Cases in Schools](#)

"A case count for a school building would include any individual (students or staff) who was physically present in the school setting while infectious." A number of the reported cases on the COVID-19 Dashboard do not meet this criteria. Each case is individually analyzed by administration and our school health personnel. Additionally, the PA Department Of Health provides guidance and confirmation.

The Whitehall-Coplay School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, sex, handicap or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam Era. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with State and Federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We further affirm that all curriculum offerings and student enrollment practices will be handled without discrimination based on sex, race, religion, national origin, or non-job related handicaps or disabilities.

We will continue to closely monitor our building case counts and move buildings to remote instruction when necessary based on the PA Department of Education's guidance to complete cleaning protocols and prevent further spread in the school setting. Please visit the included link for more information about our [District's Health and Safety Plan](#)

Sincerely,

WCSD Administration