

PA Department of Education

Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools

Complete guidance can be found at:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools in Determining Instructional Models. The chart below, uses measurements from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, identifies thresholds representing **low, moderate, or substantial** community transmission of COVID-19, and corresponding instructional models recommended by the Departments of Health and Education.

For ease of use, once per week, the Department of Education will publish a list identifying the level of community transmission in each county over the most recent 7-day reporting period. This list is available on this page in the section called: Level of Community Transmission Table.

If fewer than 10 new cases are reported in a county in the most recent 7-day reporting period, the county will automatically qualify as exhibiting a low level of community transmission.

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

Transitioning Between Instructional Models

A county's corresponding threshold may change week-by-week as incidence and percent positivity rates rise and fall. In order to confirm stability of county transmission, when a county's corresponding threshold changes, school entities should wait to see the results from the next 7-day reporting period before considering a change to their instructional models. To ensure the most effective transition for students, it may be appropriate for a school to wait even longer, up to a full marking period, to transition to an instructional model that increases in-person instruction.

It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based model more quickly.