



South Park School District
Central Administration Offices
2005 Eagle Ridge Drive
South Park, PA 15129
412-655-3111 • Fax: 412-655-2952
www.sparksd.org

South Park School District

November 25, 2020

South Park Families:

As we prepare for the fall break, we wanted to provide numerous updates regarding district operations. South Park High School will remain in a remote instructional model through at least December 4. At this time, we anticipate the elementary center and middle school to continue under the hybrid instructional model on Tuesday, December 1. Also, Governor Tom Wolf, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced new guidance and mandates for Pre-K-12 schools on Monday, November 23, 2020.

First, school districts in counties with substantial community transmission – an incidence rate of 100 or more per 100,000 residents or a PCR percent positivity rate of 10% or more – are required to complete and submit an attestation form to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by 5 p.m. on November 30. On this attestation form, school districts must specify whether they intend to continue in-person learning or operate remotely. Allegheny County, for the second consecutive week, is in the substantial community transmission level with an incidence rate of 211.9 per 100,000 residents and a PCR percent positivity rate of 9.0%.

The South Park School District intends to submit an attestation form, signed by authorized district officials, stating it intends to continue in-person learning at this time. This does not change the information we shared with families last week that South Park High School will remain in a remote instructional model through at least December 4 due to positive COVID-19 cases. By stating our intention to continue in-person learning, the South Park School District agrees to continue complying with and enforcing the updated [Universal Face Covering Order from the Pennsylvania Department of Health](#). The district also agrees to follow the updated guidance for schools following the identification of positive COVID-19 cases in a school building.

[The new guidance](#) outlines the steps, including the closure of school buildings, the district must take after the identification of a case or cases of COVID-19 in a school. This guidance is broken down by enrollment categories. All South Park schools are classified as medium school buildings (enrollment of 500-900 students).

- In the substantial level of community transmission, if a school has 1-3 cases among students or staff over a 14-day rolling period, schools must continue to focus on cleaning areas where the individual(s) spent time, and public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.
- In the substantial level of community transmission, if a school has 4-6 cases among students or staff who are not household contacts over a 14-day rolling period, the school will be directed to close for 3-7 days. Also, schools must continue to focus on cleaning areas where the individuals spent time, and public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.
- In the substantial level of community transmission, if a school has 7 or more cases among students or staff over a 14-day rolling period, the school will be directed to close for 14 days. The entire school must be cleaned. Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.

It is important to note that the length of a closure could be shortened if case investigations, contact tracing and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame.



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This guidance is similar to the targeted mitigation efforts the South Park School District has already implemented following a number of COVID-19 cases at South Park High School. **Again, we encourage all families to have contingency plans in place in the event of a sudden school closure over the coming days and weeks.** We must stress that changes to our operational model may be swift and must take into account a number of important factors, including the number of COVID-19 cases in the district, community and county; the impacts – educational, health, and social/emotional – on our students; the ability of the district to staff classrooms and positions; and the guidelines and recommendations from state and county health officials. Families will be notified of any instructional model changes as quickly as possible.

These mandates from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health highlight the importance of the steps we can all take in our communities to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open.

- Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth when leaving your home.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Practice physical distancing by maintaining six feet between you and those who do not live with you.
- Regularly wash your hands for 20 seconds or more.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoid gatherings where COVID-19 may spread more easily.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.

Additionally, the South Park School District is required to adhere to the [order from the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding out-of-state travel](#). The order requires those traveling outside of Pennsylvania, except for work, medical care or other exempted reasons, to provide the district with a negative result from an approved COVID-19 test from within 72 hours **PRIOR TO** returning to Pennsylvania or quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania before returning to school. Families with students traveling outside of Pennsylvania must notify the district by completing [this online form](#) and provide a negative result from an approved COVID-19 test from within 72 hours **PRIOR TO** returning to Pennsylvania or quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania before returning to school.

Over the fall break, please continue communicating with your child's school principal or nurse if your child or an immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19, develops symptoms of COVID-19 or if your child is told to quarantine. You may also email pandemic co-coordinators Lynn Como (lynn.como@sparksd.org) or Patrick Harrigan (patrick.harrigan@sparksd.org).

SCHOOL NURSES

South Park Elementary Center
Kim Mosi
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South Park Middle School
Anita Christie
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South Park High School
Tera Barkey
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Thank you for everything you are doing to help us ensure healthy learning environments for our students and staff. We will continue to provide updates when information is available. Have a safe fall break.

Sincerely,
Wayne P. Gdovic
Superintendent of Schools
South Park School District

Wayne P. Gdovic, Superintendent ▪ Chelsea M. Campolongo, Business Manager