

On November 30, 2020, the Steel Valley School District attested to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that we would follow their recommendations on whether or not to close a school following the identification of COVID-19 cases among students and staff members that have been in school. The guidelines created by the state, which can be found in detail at

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx>, are dependent on the size of the school, the number of cases of COVID-19 within a 14-day period, and the level of community transmission in the county.

Barrett and Park have fewer than 500 students, so our elementary schools are considered small schools by the state. Because the High School and Middle School share a common roof and have fewer than 900 students between them, those two schools are considered one combined medium-sized school.

Like most of the counties in the state, Allegheny County's level of transmission remains substantial, though most of the pandemic metrics, such as incidence rate and positivity rate, in Allegheny County are trending in a better direction now than they were in November and December.

#### **PA Department of Health Guidelines for Cleaning Schools Following COVID Cases**

These are the guidelines for the first level of cases within a 14-day period in a school (1 case at Barrett or Park, 3 cases or fewer for the HS + MS):

- School does not need to close.
- Clean areas where cases spent time.
- Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.

These are the guidelines for the second level of cases within a 14-day period in a school (2 – 4 cases at Barrett or Park, 4 – 6 cases for the HS + MS):

- Close school for 3 – 7 days. If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.
- Clean areas where cases spent time.
- Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.

These are the guidelines for the third level of cases within a 14-day period in a school (5+ cases at Barrett or Park, 7+ cases for the HS + MS):

- Close school for 14 days. If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.
- Clean the entire school.
- Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine.