

**Friday, December 17, 2021,**

Dear Avonworth Parents & Caregivers,

I hope this message finds you doing well. This communication is to provide an update regarding current COVID conditions.

**Important Information**

Today, the PA Supreme Court affirmed that the Acting PA Secretary of Health did not follow the proper rule-making procedures when issuing the masking requirement for K-12 schools ending the Secretary's mandate. As stated in my [December 2, 2021 message](#), the Avonworth School District's Board-approved Health & Safety Plan remains in place, which requires masks for all students, staff, and visitors in our school buildings.

**Update on Cases of COVID-19 in Avonworth School District as of December 17, 2021.**

Avonworth Primary Center	Avonworth Elementary School	Avonworth Middle/High School
5 Active Case	4 Active Cases	1 Active Cases

There are currently **12** individuals (staff and/or students) in quarantine.

**COVID Conditions in Allegheny County**

Allegheny County Data from the PA Department of Health COVID-19 Early Warning Dashboard ([source](#))

Criteria	11/12/2021	11/19/2021	12/03/2021	12/10/2021	12/17/2021
Incidence Rate Per 100K	180.3	250.0	275.7	290.3	274.4
PCR Percent Positivity	9.3%	11.2%	13.4%	12.4%	12.3%

**Key:**

Blue = Low Transmission Level

Yellow = Moderate Transmission Level

Orange = Substantial Transmission Level

Red = High Transmission Level

**NOTE:** Per the CDC - The transmission level is determined by the **Cases Per 100K** and the **Percent Positivity Rate** falling in a level. **If the two indicators suggest different levels, the transmission level corresponds to the higher threshold.**

Based on current data, Allegheny County is currently at the **High Transmission Level**

### **Quarantine Guidance & Information:**

**CDC Close Contact Definition:** A close contact is considered someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed) for 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset.

#### **Exceptions:**

- In the K-12 indoor setting, the close contact definition **excludes** students who were not less than 3 feet of an infected student if universal masking is in place and all students were wearing masks.
- An individual that is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic **does not** need to quarantine.
- An individual who was previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months of being identified as a close contact **does not** need to quarantine.

The Allegheny County Health Department has provided the following Quarantine Flowchart to assist K-12 schools in making quarantine decisions.

[Allegheny County Health Department Quarantine Flowchart](#)

### **Reporting Health Information & Collective Community Effort:**

Please contact your child's school nurse if your child is identified to be positive for COVID-19. To limit the transmission of COVID-19 in our schools and school community, it is critical that this information is shared and proper contact tracing is completed.

We would like to remind our parents/guardians to continue to be diligent with regard to monitoring your child(ren)'s health. Daily health monitoring and keeping children home when needed are necessary to limit virus transmission.

### **If a student has any of the following symptoms, please keep them home:**

- Has shown any of the following symptoms:
  - Fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, achiness, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell
- Active vomiting or diarrhea
- Fever (100 degrees or higher), chills, or general body aches

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Hadley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**Resources/Information:**

[Allegheny County COVID Testing Locator](#)

[8/31/2021 PA Department of Health Face Covering Order](#)

[8/31/2021 PA Department of Education FAQs](#)

[The COVKID Tracking & Education Project](#)

[Common Questions about Kids & Face Masks](#)