



WILLIAM J. GRETZULA, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 21, 2021

Good afternoon Pennsbury Families and Staff,

As you may be aware, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provided [guidance](#) on action steps schools should take when a school reaches a particular number of COVID-19 cases.

To summarize the relevant information, when a school with 900 or more students (Pennsbury High School has 2877 students) reaches six cases during a time of substantial transmission in the community, certain steps are recommended.

The recommendations include the following:

- Schools should consider altering the schedule to significantly decrease the number of students on site
- Close school for 3 to 7 days\*
- Clean area(s) where cases spent time
- Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine

*\*PDE also notes "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."*

Pennsbury High School reached six cases on the 14-day Lookback [chart](#) Friday afternoon. This is the minimum of the range at which the District should review whether or not to implement the steps listed above. On Saturday, Pennsbury High School dropped to five cases, which is below the minimum. As of the writing of this message, Pennsbury High School is still at five cases. However, in the interest of transparency, we thought it important to acknowledge that the school was briefly at the number to consider closure and explain our rationale for keeping the school open.

***After carefully reviewing the data as it stands now, the District has determined that Pennsbury High School will open for Cohort A students and all staff as planned on Monday, February 22, 2021.***

### MISSION

*Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.*

The District has conferred with the Bucks County Department of Health and completed the three actions required by the asterisk in the state's guidance above (i.e.: case investigation, contact tracing and cleaning), and there does not appear to be any significant risk of transmission in school as a result of the six cases. The key reason for closing school and going remote is to eliminate risk of transmission or an outbreak in school. With the school being closed to students since Wednesday, February 17, the risk of exposure from these six cases is greatly reduced.

Please note that the number of cases in any given school is a fluid number and things may change quickly. We will reach out to families and staff again if necessary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Gretzula". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr. William J. Gretzula, Ed.D  
District Superintendent  
Pennsbury School District