



Subject: AGCS Reopening Benchmarks and Important Information

At Tuesday’s night's monthly Board Meeting, the main agenda topic focused on new guidance from the Chester County Health Department related to reopening data metrics for K-12 schools.

Determining Instructional Model Benchmark

AGCS has reviewed and will be utilizing the following two data measure statements when evaluating its ability to open the school for in-person hybrid learning AND when we would potentially return to virtual learning once schools are open.

- 1.) Transitioning to a more *in-person* instructional model can be considered when thresholds for incidence rates **and** positivity are met for **three (3) consecutive weeks** per the following table.
- 2.) Transitioning to a more *virtual* instructional model can be considered when thresholds for incidence rates **and** positivity are met for **two (2) consecutive weeks** per the following table.
 - a.) It is important to note that the school and families need to prepare for the potential back and forth between hybrid and remote learning. This back and forth could be because of county data, shortage of teachers, number of students/staff in quarantine/isolation, etc. If this fluidity and uncertainty does not work for your current family situation, we encourage you to stay remote for consistency.

Determining Instructional Models (CCHD)

This table outlines the data bands we are looking at for our decision making. The county would need to be in the Moderate and/or High data bands for three consecutive weeks in order for us to announce a school opening plan.

Community Transmission	Incidence Rate per 100,000	AND/OR	PCR Test Positivity	Instructional Model
Low	<10	AND	<5%	In-Person



Moderate	≥ 10 and < 40	AND	≥ 5 and $< 7\%$	Hybrid
High	≥ 40 and < 80	OR	$> 7\%$ and $< 10\%$	Virtual and/or Hybrid
Very High	≥ 80	OR	$\geq 10\%$	Virtual

Evaluation of Re-opening AGCS (October 12 Target Date)

This table outlines the specific weeks of data that will be utilized for each reopening date period, along with the date we would make an announcement about the opening. If during the three weeks of data collection, the county was to enter the “Very High” band, we would inform our community that we would not be able to meet our benchmark, virtual learning would continue, and we move to the next evaluation period.

Date of Reopening	Date of Announcement (Tentative)	Week (3)	Week (2)	Week (1)
October 12 (Phased Opening)	September 28	September 11	September 18	September 25
October 26 (K-12)	October 12	October 9	October 2	September 25
November 9 (K-12)	October 26	October 23	October 16	October 9
November 30 (K-12)	November 16	November 6	October 30	October 23

*Notification will be provided mid-evaluation period if the weekly metrics are not being met

**Also monitoring school-district specific data for decision making



If data released during the two-week window from the announcement date to the opening date rises to the “Very High” level, the school would also notify the community that we would no longer be opening for in-person/hybrid instruction and would remain remote. We would then move on to the next applicable evaluation window.

These reopening timelines do not affect the current Special Education Phased opening being implemented.

Current Chester County Landscape

Below are two tables of Chester County Health Department data released on Friday, September 11th. Week 1 (most current week of 9/4-9/10) is the first week of data that we will be utilizing when targeting our October 12th reopening date. As you can see from the table, cases in Chester County have been rising over the previous four weeks of reports.

Chester County

7 Day Period	Positive Case Count	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Week 1 (most current)	365	69.92
Week 2	213	40.80
Week 3	152	29.12
Week 4	147	28.16
Weeks 1-4 Average	219.25	42.00

Chester County

7 Day Period	Positive PCR Tests Count	All PCR Tests Count	Percent PCR Positivity
Week 1 (most current)	385	6,059	6.35%
Week 2	238	6,844	3.48%
Week 3	180	6,627	2.72%
Week 4	183	7,202	2.54%
Total for All Weeks	986	26,732	3.69%

Phased Reopening Option for October 12th Target Date

It is recommended that schools transition from an all virtual to hybrid learning environment do so in a phased approach starting with the younger grade levels. If AGCS meets the data benchmarks to open on October 12th, it is considering doing so with this phased approach. No decision has been made yet as to what grade levels would return on what dates. This information would be included in the September 28th announcement.

AGCVA/Remote Learning Option

In addition, the AGCVA program model and student enrollment windows were also discussed at the meeting.

Avon Grove Charter School Parent Communication 9-17-2020



In August, AGCS requested that parents make a determination as to whether they would want to attend in-person instruction in a hybrid format or stay online via the virtual academy program. This was originally sent out to parents when we had hoped to open the school year with a hybrid schedule. The originally published timelines for individuals making this election were that their virtual learning environment would remain in effect until:

Grades 7-12: End of the first marking period (November 6);

Grades K-6 End of the first trimester (December 11).

It was at this time that parents could choose to transition their students back to in-person instruction.

Since the school year did not start with in-person instruction as we had hoped, we are adjusting these AGCVA timelines to better meet the conditions of our current opening plans, the metrics we are utilizing to base our decisions on, and to better inform our planning efforts.

On Monday, September 21st an educational intentions form will be published to the ParentPortal. This learning intention form will contain two questions that must be filled out by ALL families for ALL students. The form will ask what **mode of instruction** you desire for your child (in-person or remote) and what you believe your **PRIMARY mode of transportation** to school would be (bus or self-provided) if/when we return to school. The question about transportation has no impact on provided transportation. We are asking this to better plan for the potential volume of vehicles coming through the carline.

Parents/students (K-12) who choose the online/virtual academy learning model would now stay online until January 22, 2021 (end of a semester). It is at this time that a transition back to in-person learning could occur.

It is important to note that the number of students electing to stay online will be another data point impacting our reopening decisions related to the extent to which we can exercise safe social distancing throughout the day. We ask that if you previously enrolled in AGCVA that you strongly consider continuing to do so.

Tomorrow, Friday, September 18th, the school will send out an update as to their reopening target with the release of updated Chester County Health Department data

Thank you,
AGCS Administration