

# Important Message from Kristen Bishop, Head of School

November 6, 2020

Dear AGCS Families,

Today, I write to you to share some of the fantastic work in our school community and address this week's county COVID-19 data metrics.

There is so much to be proud of happening at Avon Grove Charter School. Over the past few weeks, our students and teachers have transitioned well into our hybrid learning model. We are confident that our teachers and staff are rising to the occasion and doing an amazing job during these unfamiliar and unprecedented times for education. AGCS has implemented extensive cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Our staff has been well trained, provided the equipment and materials necessary to ensure our students' safety, and comprehensive mitigation strategies are deployed to create a safe and supportive learning environment. Throughout our classrooms and halls, you will find happy children wearing masks and social distancing. Our nurses, human resources department, and administrative teams have stepped up to support contact tracing efforts when necessary, and any type of transmission of COVID-19 within our buildings has been limited. ***This has undoubtedly been a team effort, and I am grateful to everyone for going above and beyond.***

With that being said, today's COVID-19 data for incidence rates and PCR positivity rates for the previous 7-day period fell in the "Very High" community transmission band. Avon Grove Charter Schools' current health and safety protocols indicate that if Chester County Health Department reported two consecutive weeks of data in the "Very High" community transmission band, we would return to a remote/virtual learning setting. Everything is still changing very quickly. Most schools have transitioned back, and the new data and guidelines are being considered at the county level related to school operations.

At this point, there has been no reported transmission at AGCS or on our sports teams - meaning our few cases have come from the outside community. While this is a good sign and evidence that our mitigation efforts have been successful thus far - we know that cases in the area are on the rise, and it is reasonable to assume that our school will see a similar surge. Our goal is, and always will be, keep our students in school for as long as possible.

Please continue to do the right thing in the community to contain the current increase in COVID-19 throughout the county. Our efforts in school and at home will keep us safe and remain open.

Mitigation efforts, especially as we head into the holiday season, are paramount in reducing the spread of COVID-19. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching and winter break around the corner, please know that the Department of Health currently has an extensive list of states on their travel restriction list. We ask that anyone who does travel to the states listed quarantine upon their return and do not attend in-person instruction.

Utilize the following link to find the full list of states:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx><https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

We will continue to update our school community next week related to any updated guidance or recommendations from the Chester County Health Department. Please stay optimistic and safe.

Forward Together,

Kristen Bishop