Important message from AGCS Administration

January 20, 2021

Dear Avon Grove Charter School Families,

I wanted to take a minute to clarify some misconceptions around the chart and the dashboard we are using to communicate positive cases in our school community. As you know our school buildings are classified as medium and large schools.

Classifications:

- ELC - medium (500-900 students)

- State Road - large (>900 students)

Following the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) recommendations, when a school building reaches its threshold for the number of positive and presumed positive cases of COVID-19, it will result in a temporary closure and shift to a fully remote, online learning environment.

Currently, when a school has a positive COVID-19 case, we call the Chester County Health Department and follow their guidance and procedures related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, number of days of actual closure, and the closing of some regions of the school or entire school buildings, if necessary.

The chart has a range because the PDE recognizes that all schools have different set ups and needs. For example, some schools can clean their building in three days, while others might have limited staff and need seven days to do the required cleaning. Based on the size of our schools and the efforts we have made to expand our current facilities and custodial staff, both buildings are able to be thoroughly cleaned in a three day window. Another example would be the time it takes to contact trace. Contact tracing can be very straightforward, while other cases can be very complicated and affect more people.

We understand that this information can cause confusion. The Avon Grove Charter School's Board has recommended using a concrete number to close for a three-day cleaning to be more consistent and transparent with our staff and families. To err on the side of caution, we are using **four cases at Kemblesville and six cases at State Road**; see the chart below.

We have also had some questions about the dashboard. The fourteen-day rolling period data does not include COVID-19 cases reported for individuals who have not been physically present in-person for instruction or for work for the period in which they were considered contagious. **When the building closes because it has met the threshold for positive cases and the health and safety requirements have been fulfilled, the 14-day period to track COVID-19 cases in our buildings will be reset.** Because

the guidance does not specifically stipulate that a period of closure (three days in our case) must have been implemented due to COVID cases in order to reset our 14-day rolling period, we have exercised the ability to utilize long weekends to count as a building closure. Therefore, we fulfilled the requirements with our recent three-day holiday weekend and a thorough cleaning of both buildings to reset the numbers this past Tuesday. The question has been raised why not have a remote day on Monday or Friday, so we consistently reset numbers. While this would ensure that we would not need to close down for an extended period of time due to COVID cases, we would not have the ability to conduct a thorough cleaning between our Blue and Gold hybrid cohorts, which is an integral part of our health and safety plan. Looking ahead, we will again take advantage of a three-day holiday week in February during President's Day as well as this coming weekend with our scheduled Teacher In-Service day on Friday, January 22nd. All AGCS teachers and staff will be working from home on Friday, January 22nd to allow our facilities and custodial staff to conduct a thorough cleaning of both schools this weekend.

It is also important to note that the cumulative data is information from the start of the school year to now. These numbers do not reflect staff or students who were symptomatic, required to test, and returned negative results or students/staff who self-selected to quarantine without direct guidance to do so. Not all data found in the cumulative table will fall into our 14-day rolling period based on specific circumstances surrounding individual cases.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and understanding.

Forward Together,

Kristen Bishop
Head of School

Substantial/Very High Level of Community Transmission

Early Learning Center (Medium School 500-900)

Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:
1-3 students or staff	*4-6 students/staff in same school building*	*7+ students/staff in same school building*
• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Clean area(s) where case spent time	• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • **Close school(s) for 3-7 days*** • Clean area(s) where cases spent time	• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • **Close school(s) for 14 days*** • Clean entire school

State Road Campus (Large School >900)

Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a rolling 14-day period:
1-5 students or staff	*6-10 students/staff in same school building*	*11+ students/staff in same school building*
• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Clean area(s) where case spent time	• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Close school(s) for 3-7 days*** • Clean area(s) where cases	• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site • Close school(s) for **14 days*** • Clean entire school