

# Methacton School District

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RETURN TO ON PREMISES INSTRUCTION

September 22, 2020 Update

# Framework

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Metrics

Preparedness

Approach

Instructional Options

Timeline

Communication

Other Matters

# Metrics

Use PDE chart as guide

Use Montgomery County transmission data

- Most recent 7-day reporting period
- When county threshold changes, school entities should wait to see the results from the next 7-day reporting period before considering a change to their instructional models
- It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based model more quickly

Track student & staff cases internally

Communicate internal and county trends/data weekly

Early warning signs

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full in-person Model  OR  Blended Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Blended Learning Model  OR  Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

# Metric Understanding

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## **What is the “percent positive” and why does it matter?**

- The percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive, or:  $(\text{positive tests}) / (\text{total tests}) \times 100\%$ . The percent positive (sometimes called the “percent positive rate” or “positivity rate”) helps public health officials answer what is the current level transmission in the community?







## **What does a high percent positive mean?**

- A high percent positive suggests that it is not a good time to relax restrictions aimed at reducing coronavirus transmission. Because a high percentage of positive tests suggests high coronavirus infection rates (due to high transmission in the community), a high percent positive can indicate it may be a good time to add restrictions to slow the spread of disease.

## **What does incidence rate per 100,000 mean?**

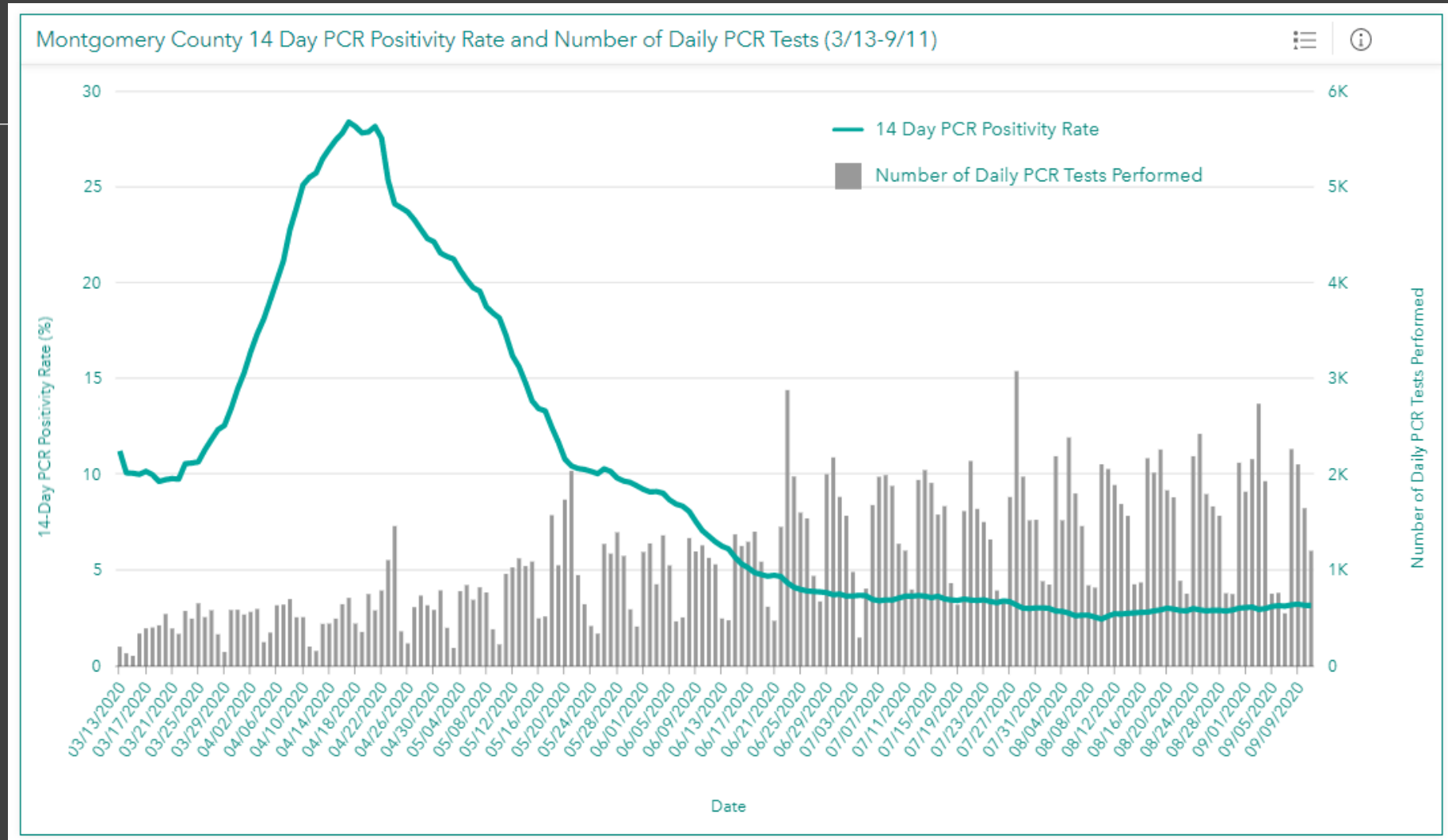
- This is the number of new cases of COVID-19 within a time period, out of a proportion of 100,000 people. It signifies the incidence density within the population.

# Metrics

<b>Incidence Rate Per 100,000</b>	<b>Week of 8/21/2020 to 8/27/2020</b>	<b>Week of 9/4/2020 to 9/10/2020</b>	
<b>Avg of Montgomery County Municipalities</b>	34.06	40.56	
<b>LOWER PROVIDENCE TWP</b>	79.49	30.28	
<b>WORCESTER TWP</b>	67.48	57.84	
<b>14 day average positivity</b>	<b>Week Ending 8/27/2020</b>	<b>Week Ending 9/10/2020</b>	
<b>Avg of Montgomery County Municipalities</b>	3.16	4.05	
<b>LOWER PROVIDENCE TWP</b>	8.47	2.79	
<b>WORCESTER TWP</b>	6.03	4.97	

SOURCE: Montgomery County Department of Public Health

# Metrics



# Metrics

## Use PDE chart and county data

- Share weekly data updates on district website
- Use county data and PDE chart to help guide delivery model determination
- Use county data and Twp. data to determine need for more or less restrictions

## Use district data

- To monitor internal impact of cases on operations
- To determine need for additional health and safety considerations or adjustments

14 day average positivity		Week Ending 9/10/2020
Avg of Montgomery County Municipalities	4.05	
LOWER PROVIDENCE TWP	2.79	
WORCESTER TWP	4.97	

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full in-person Model  OR  Blended Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Blended Learning Model  OR  Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

# Preparedness

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Staffing (staff survey, substitutes/additional nursing staff secured)

Staff & Student Training

- PPE and Health and Safety Protocol Strategies/Responsibilities

6 months of PPE supplies, required equipment, and technology needs

Instructional protocols updated (time for teachers to prepare)

Transportation finalization/testing and communication



# Preparedness — Update 9/22/2020

Distributed professional staff survey to determine number and type of certifications available for on premises return

Drafting parent survey to indicate choice between available online and on premises options - The survey is targeted to be issued by end of this week

Gathered positivity rate and incident rate data from the county department of health to establish metrics associate with delivery model

Met with building focus groups to discuss challenges and solutions associated with various delivery models and a return to on premises

Updating the Board approved Health and Safety Plan with additional specificity (using Pandemic and Admin Team)

Secured 6 months of PPE supplies. 16 electrostatic sprayer back packs scheduled to arrive in mid-October. Currently using 26 electrostatic sprayers, enough to provide coverage for a return to on premises

Working to secure daily substitutes teachers and additional school nursing support

Transportation services is reviewing bus routes, safety measures, cleaning protocols

Working on a 2 day transition time for teachers (Act 80 days or otherwise all asynchronous learning days) in order to provide time to prepare and to provide training on the health and safety plan protocols

# Approach (Phase in Approach)

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## Return in Phases

- Phase 1 (September)
  - PCA Support
  - In-Person in school pilot AND online option
    - Life Skills & Autistic classes
- Phase 2 (Late October/Early November – Add to Phase 1)
  - Return of staff
  - Grades K-1, 5, 7, and 9, 12 –In Person Return
- Phase 3 (Week following Phase 2 - Add to Phase 1 & 2)
  - Grades 2,3,4, 6 and 8, 10-11

# Approach (Phase 1 Update 9/22/2020)

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PCA support is being provided virtually for students

Some in-home PCA support is being provided to students

Related Services Clinic will offer in-person PCA option for students with IEPs (more specific information will be provided to parents the week of September 28.)

Student Services Center opening September 29 (all student K-12 by appointment)

District's K-12 Autistic and Life Skills Support in-person pilot classes started on Monday, September 21, 2020.

- Classes are being instructed by our Autistic and Life Skills Support teachers (6)
- District support staff and agency personnel are assisting our students and teachers
- Our school nurses are also on premises to support our staff and students
- 32 students are participating in the pilot classes (Woodland, Skyview/Arcola, MHS)
- Several Special Area Teachers are providing in person classes
- Related service providers will begin in person therapy for students in these class beginning week of September 28<sup>th</sup>.

# Approach – Phase 2 & 3 Considerations

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In July, a decision was made for us to plan for a return to on premises instruction on or about November 11, 2020

Following discussions with building level focus groups:

- Elementary Teachers K-6 want to return to in person sooner, if possible
- Secondary Teachers in 7-12 can return sooner, but not close to the end of the marking period
- K-4 - On premises instruction with all students on premises 5 days/wk (less students remaining online)
- 5-6 – On premises instruction using hybrid rotating day model (A/B, A/B, C) or all on premises
- 7-8 – On premises instruction using hybrid rotating day model (A/B, A/B, C)
- 9-12 – On premises instruction using hybrid rotating day model (A/B, A/B, C)

# K-4 On Premises

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- K-4 - On premises instruction with all students on premises 5 days/wk (less students remaining online)
- Based on Approved health and Safety Plan
  - Keep the 6' X 5' classroom configuration
  - Limiting the total number of students/adults per section
  - Utilize special area and all other available spaces to hold additional sections where needed
  - Reallocate existing staff and hire additional teachers to address the section expansions
  - Estimated 9-15 additional teachers (extra sections and all online)
- Actions Required:
  - Issue Parent survey
  - Advertise/Interview for new staff
  - Create new schedules (based on staff and parent feedback)
  - Communicate schedules
  - Target return dates for grades
  - Teacher in-service
  - Begin on premises delivery

# 5-6 On Premises

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- 5-6 – On premises instruction using hybrid rotating day model (A/B, A/B, C) or all on premises
  - Based on Approved health and Safety Plan
  - Keeping the 6' X 5' classroom configuration
  - Limiting the total number of students/adults per section
  - Reallocate existing staff and hire additional teachers to address online only
    - Estimated 3-5 additional teachers
  - Actions Required:
    - Issue Parent survey
    - Advertise/Interview for new staff
    - Create new schedules (based on staff and parent feedback)
    - Acquire technology (cameras/bandwidth)
    - Communicate schedules
    - Target return dates for grades
    - Teacher in-service
    - Begin on premises delivery

# 7-12 On Premises

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- 7-12 – On premises instruction using hybrid rotating day model (A/B, A/B, C)
  - Based on Approved health and Safety Plan
    - Keeping the 6' X 5' classroom configuration
    - Limiting the total number of students/adults per section
    - Leverage Google Classroom as instructional focal point for all students
    - No additional staff projected
  - Actions Required:
    - Issue Parent survey
    - Organize structure to best meet all delivery options (set expectations for staff/student/parent)
    - Acquire technology (cameras/bandwidth)
    - Teacher in-service
    - Begin on premises delivery

# Elementary Sections

	Kdg	# of classes	Avg class size	1st Grade	# of classes	Avg class size	2nd Grade	# of classes	Avg class size
Arrowhead	62.0	3.0	20.7	90.0	4.0	22.5	70.0	4.0	17.5
Eagleville	67.0	3.0	22.3	77.0	4.0	19.3	72.0	4.0	18.0
Woodland	88.0	4.0	22.0	97.0	5.0	19.4	87.0	5.0	17.4
Worcester	60.0	3.0	20.0	76.0	4.0	19.0	94.0	5.0	18.8
	277.0			340.0			323.0		

	3rd Grade	# of classes	Avg class size	4th Grade	# of classes	Avg class size
Arrowhead	89.0	4.0	22.3	75.0	4.0	18.8
Eagleville	81.0	4.0	20.3	75.0	4.0	18.8
Woodland	77.0	4.0	19.3	92.0	4.0	23.0
Worcester	90.0	4.0	22.5	71.0	3.0	23.7
	337.0			313.0		

	5th Grade	# of classes	Avg class size	6th Grade	# of classes	Avg class size
Skyview	354.0	15.0	23.6	382.0	15.0	25.5

Data as of 9/21/2020



# Classrooms

Building	# of Rooms/# of Seats	# of Rooms/# of Seats
	6' Apart from Center Left to Right	6' Apart from Center Left to Right
	5' Apart from Center Front to Back	5' Apart from Center Front to Back
Skyview	51 Classrooms/20 seats maximum (850 square feet)	3 classrooms/28 seats maximum (1550 square feet)
Arrowhead	21 Classrooms/19 seats maximum	2 Modular Rooms/17 seats maximum
	1 Classroom /16 seats maximum (840 square feet)	2 Modular Rooms/15 seats maximum (932 square feet)
Woodland	24 Classrooms/20 seats maximum (896 square feet)	N/A
Eagleville	13 Classrooms/18 seats maximum (913 square feet)	9 Classrooms/18 seats maximum (874 square feet)
		2 Classrooms/18 seats maximum (1013 square feet)
Worcester	13 Classrooms/18 seats maximum (816 square feet)	11 Classrooms/18 seats maximum (816 square feet)

# Impact

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The change from a singular delivery model to multiple will inherently create challenges:

- There will be changes in some student's teacher (K-6)
- Parents will not know which teacher is going to be online or on premises until after they select their choice of delivery
- Adjustment to school calendar to carve out in-service/Act 80 time for teacher planning and safety protocol training
- Address cases of quarantine/isolation of students/staff with impact on operations

# Direction

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Does the Board want the administration to focus on bringing students back in K-6 earlier than the change at the marking period (Nov 11)?

If Yes, then

Does the Board want the administration to proceed with issuing a commitment survey to parents by the end of this week?

If Yes, then

What is the on premises delivery model that we will pursue for K-4?

1. Full return less online students (limiting class size with 6'X5' distancing)
2. Hybrid (switching every other day or switching in middle of the day or other options)

What is the on premises delivery model that we will pursue for 5-6?

1. Full return less online students (limiting class size with 6'X5' distancing)
2. Hybrid (switching every other day)

Are there any objections to grades 7-12 proceeding forward with hybrid model after November 11?

# Timeline – will be updated based on decisions

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## September 2020

- Staff Survey
- Phase 1 Return Implementation
- Education Committee Framework Discussion
- Update Board at Work Session

## October 2020

- Parent/Student Commitment to delivery modality option
- Preparedness Report to Board
- Educational Modality Report to Board

## November 2020

- Phase 2 and Phase 3 Return Implementation

# Communications

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Provide Critical and Consistent Updates to Families/Staff/Board