



November 24, 2020

November Board Meeting Learning Model Recommendation

Thank you for all of your patience as we navigate through the pandemic together. We are grateful for our engaged families and committed staff who have continued to put forth tremendous effort to prevail during this time.

In line with our timeline, our COVID-19 Learning Model was revisited at the November Board meeting. The presentation was based on various data points and sector recommendations and can be found at the following link: [COVID Response Plan/ Board Proposal](#)

Overall, the latest data indicates an increased significant risk to the health of our community in returning to in-person instruction at present. **Therefore, the Board Administration of Northwood Academy Charter School uphold that we remain in a REMOTE LEARNING MODEL.** We are proposing an in-person return when the state and local Health Department data warrant a safe return to in-person instruction.

Again, this recommendation does not come easily. Research and best practices have been examined and considered in reference to what is the safest and best course of action for Northwood Academy Charter School at this time.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Amy Hollister
Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA:

- The following data resources have been reliable and have guided our decision making to this point:
 - [PA Department of Health ~ Level of Community Transmission](#)
 - [PA Department Of Health ~ Early Warning Dashboard](#)
 - [CHOP PolicyLab Projections](#)
 - [COVID-19 Aggregate Data](#)
 - [Trajectory Animations](#)
- Since October 27th, the PA Department of Health (DOH) has deemed Philadelphia County to be at a “Substantial Risk of Transmission”. At this level, the PA DOH recommendation is “full remote learning”. This information is found at [Community Transmission Information - Instructional Model Guidance](#). As of November 24th, The Philadelphia dashboard has the [19124 zip code at an 18.5%](#) positivity rate within the last 2 weeks.
- CHOP Policy Lab projections indicate a steady increase over the next several weeks and recommend community mitigation efforts. This information can be found at [COVID-Lab: Mapping COVID-19 in Your Community](#)
- For the entirety of November, Philadelphia has been listed as a “High Risk of Community Transmission” according to the [Philadelphia Department of Health](#) and, in response, the City and Department of Public Health set forth the new “Safer at Home” restrictions, which are effective November 20, 2020 through January 1, 2021. An extension of these restrictions and/or the implementation of additional restrictions is possible depending on trends in the spread of coronavirus in the city.
- With holidays quickly approaching and if we follow the pattern in other cities, we should expect a continued increase in cases during the remainder of November and December.

PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE IN-PERSON RETURN:

We recognize the ambiguity is difficult for everyone. Therefore, following the recommendation of the PA Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, it is our intent to remain remote in January. In order to change to a Hybrid Model, we must see 3 consecutive weeks of data in the Low or Moderate category, accompanied by 3 weeks of the CHOP PolicyLab projections on a steady decline. We will continue to share these data points with you through our weekly Bulldog Blast. As the safety of all stakeholders is paramount, we will also be conducting an ongoing analysis of staff availability due to medical/CARES leave/quarantine exemptions.

If and when we recommend transitioning to a Hybrid Model, we will conduct an emergency Board meeting in an effort to give our school community a two-week notification.