



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR

Area Vocational-Technical School

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August 31, 2020

Today, Columbia County was classified as “Substantial Risk” by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This morning PDE Deputy Secretary Matt Stem and his team and leaders from the Department of Health hosted a virtual meeting for all of the Superintendents in Columbia County. The PDE recommendation for schools in our county is to reduce class sizes and follow all virus prevention protocols currently in place. Our faculty, staff, and students should be commended for the diligence and consistency which they modeled safe and healthy best practice behavior since the start of school. We look forward to continued focus on proper practice every day and each week so that we can remain in our hybrid model. It is hard to express in the words how well everyone in our school managed with our new systems, processes and structures. The guidance of Mr. Stem and his team was more than helpful and we appreciate PDE reaching out.

School Instruction

As Columbia County moves to the *Substantial Risk* category, CMAVTS will remain open and will continue with the hybrid 50/50 A/B model of instruction. During this period of time, Columbia County Superintendents will have regular meetings with Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health as we continue to monitor the situation.

Community Spread

In our virtual meeting with the Pennsylvania DOH and PDE it was noted that the majority of cases in Columbia County are in the 19-24 age range as we might anticipate given the news coverage of Bloomsburg University. However, it was also pointed out that a significant portion of the positive tests did not have direct relationship with the University and that it is essential that we as a community keep the vigilance and focus we have for several months. Put simply, if we want to remain in school, which we do very much, as a community we need to follow safety protocols.

As Columbia County enters into the *Substantial Risk* category, it is important to wear your mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands regularly.

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