



October 22, 2020

Lackawanna County Transmission Rate

I would like to take a moment to squash some rumors about a change to our instructional model. Recently, our district along with other local districts met with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). This past week, Lackawanna County fell into what PDE categorizes as “substantial” in terms of the spread of transmission for COVID-19. However, the local data for the boroughs of Taylor and Moosic is showing a spread of transmission that is significantly less (please refer to our chart below).

**Local Data – Moosic/Taylor**

*Each data point is based on the previous 7 days*

**Riverside School District 5,777** (population – 2018)

**5,926** (population – 2018)

DATE	MOOSIC		TAYLOR	
10/22/2020	3 new positives (41/44)	MOD	4 new positives (46/50)	MOD
10/21/2020	3 new positives (36/39)	MOD	5 new positives (41/46)	SUB
10/20/2020	3 new positives (34/37)	MOD	3 new positives (51/54)	MOD
10/19/2020	3 new positives (32/35)	MOD	3 new positives (49/52)	MOD
10/18/2020	3 new positives (35/38)	MOD	3 new positives (52/55)	MOD
10/17/2020	2 new positives (45/47)	MOD	2 new positives (36/38)	MOD
10/16/2020	0 new positives (44/44)	LOW	3 new positives (39/42)	MOD
10/14/2020	0 new positives (51/51)	LOW	1 new positives (49/50)	MOD
10/13/2020	0 new positives (48/48)	LOW	1 new positives (41/42)	MOD
10/12/2020	0 new positives (32/35)	LOW	1 new positives (40/41)	MOD
10/11/2020	0 new positives (40/40)	LOW	1 new positives (37/38)	MOD
10/9/2020	0 new positives (34/34)	LOW	0 new positives (38/38)	LOW
10/7/2020	0 new positives (27/27)	LOW	0 new positives (26/26)	LOW
10/5/2020	0 new positives (28/28)	LOW	1 new positives (30/31)	MOD
10/4/2020	0 new positives (27/27)	LOW	1 new positives (80/81)	MOD
10/2/2020	0 new positives (25/25)	LOW	1 new positives (139/140)	MOD
9/25/2020	1 new positives (32/33)	MOD	0 new positives (23/23)	LOW
9/18/2020	1 new positives (30/31)	MOD	0 new positives (29/29)	LOW
9/11/2020	0 new positives (16/16)	LOW	1 new positives (21/22)	MOD



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PDE may contact us again on Monday, October 26th if our county remains at a “substantial” level. We are predicting that it will remain at “substantial” based on early numbers. As such, the Riverside School District will continue in our TIER II (hybrid) and TIER III (virtual) instructional options. We will continue to monitor the spread of transmission daily. Local data is only one metric that we will use as we continue to take risk into context for the betterment of our students.

We will alert you in as timely as a manner as possible **IF** we have to transition to a TIER III only (fully virtual) instructional model. This will allow you as much time as possible in order to make plans for your family. Our district will not make an abrupt decision unless we have an emergency.

I would like to THANK all of our employees as they have been working so hard for the benefit of our kids! Virtually across the state there are many students who are struggling. Sending our hybrid students back into a fully virtual environment will have a detriment to their education and well-being. We also feel that because of our employees and protocols, our district is the safest place for our kids to be all day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul M. Brennan  
Superintendent  
Riverside School District