



Capital Area School for the Arts  
Charter School

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**November 13, 2020**

Dear CASA Families,

Last week, we sent home an update letter addressing the current rise of COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania along with information regarding CASA's fully virtual instructional delivery model. Today, we were informed of a new positive case in the CASA community. Contact tracing is currently ongoing and close contacts will be notified. Even though the number of cases at CASA has been minimal, the increase in cases along with hospitalizations in the local counties and state over the past week are cause for alarm. The incidence rate for Dauphin County over the past seven days is 197.8/100,000 residents and the percent positivity is 9.4%.

As of today, November 13, 2020, Dauphin County remains in the "substantial" level of community transmission for the third consecutive week. The Pennsylvania Department of Health and Department of Education continue to recommend that schools follow the chart below when determining their instructional delivery methods. The recommendation is that while in the "substantial" level of community transmission, schools are to move to a fully virtual learning environment.

We are pleased that we have been able to continue live instruction for the entire first marking period. It truly has been a team effort, and for that, we thank you! From the beginning, the safety of CASA's students, families, and staff members has been the driving force for making difficult decisions. At this point, we cannot disregard the science and recommendations from the Department of Health and the Department of Education. While our goal is to have all students present in the building, at this time, it is imperative that we pause until the amount of community spread is reduced.

**CASA will move to the fully virtual instructional delivery model beginning Monday, November 16, 2020.** At this time, no previously scheduled events (in-person fall play rehearsals, picture day retakes/virtual learning student pictures, etc.) will be occurring. Staff members will be working to deliver virtual instruction as noted in the corresponding letter. If your child needs materials or technology assistance, please email Mr. Wendling at [twendling@casa-arts.org](mailto:twendling@casa-arts.org) or Mrs. Rhinehart at [arhinehart@casa-arts.org](mailto:arhinehart@casa-arts.org). We will remain in the fully virtual delivery model until the amount of community spread has been reduced. We will then resume classes in the hybrid model.

The chart below, using measurements from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, identifies thresholds representing low, moderate, or substantial community transmission of COVID-19, and corresponding instructional models recommended by the Departments of Health and Education.

For ease of use, once per week, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will publish a list identifying the level of community transmission in each county over the most recent seven-day reporting period.

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

A county's corresponding threshold may change week-by-week as incidence and percent positivity rates rise and fall. In order to confirm stability of county transmission, when the county's corresponding threshold changes, CASA will wait to see the results from the next seven-day reporting period before *considering* a change to the instructional delivery model. To ensure the most effective transition for students, it may be appropriate for CASA to wait even longer, up to a full marking period, to transition to an instructional model that increases in-person instruction. Because CASA is comprised of students from 30 Central Pennsylvania School Districts, CASA will monitor several counties, in addition to Dauphin County.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>

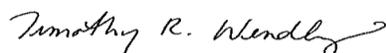
**Please see the enclosed letter that includes specific information regarding CASA's fully virtual instructional delivery model.**

With flu season and the winter months approaching rapidly, please remember to continue following the safety guidelines. These safety protocols are our best method in reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

- Wear a mask.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance.
- Wash your hands and use sanitizer frequently.
- Stay home if you or a close relative in the home exhibit symptoms. Please see the symptom checklist on our website at [www.casa-arts.org](http://www.casa-arts.org). Please contact Nurse Stillwater at [astillwater@casa-arts.org](mailto:astillwater@casa-arts.org) if you or a family member tests positive for COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. If you have any questions, please call the school at 717-732-8450.

Sincerely,



Timothy Wendling  
CEO/Principal



Amanda Rhinehart  
Assistant Principal