

COVID-19 Updated Guidance and Impact in our Schools

Pottsville Area School District

December 2, 2020

Recent COVID-19 Changes

- Schuylkill County continues to see rises in COVID-19 cases
- Schuylkill County remains in a substantial designation in community transmission for the week ending November 27, 2020
- Schuylkill County superintendents are continuing to meet at least once per week with Schuylkill County Emergency Management officials

COVID-19 Cases by Day

Schuylkill County

Over the past 7 days:

11/25 - 79 cases

11/26 - 122 cases

11/27 - 93 cases

11/28 - 75 cases

11/29 - 38 cases

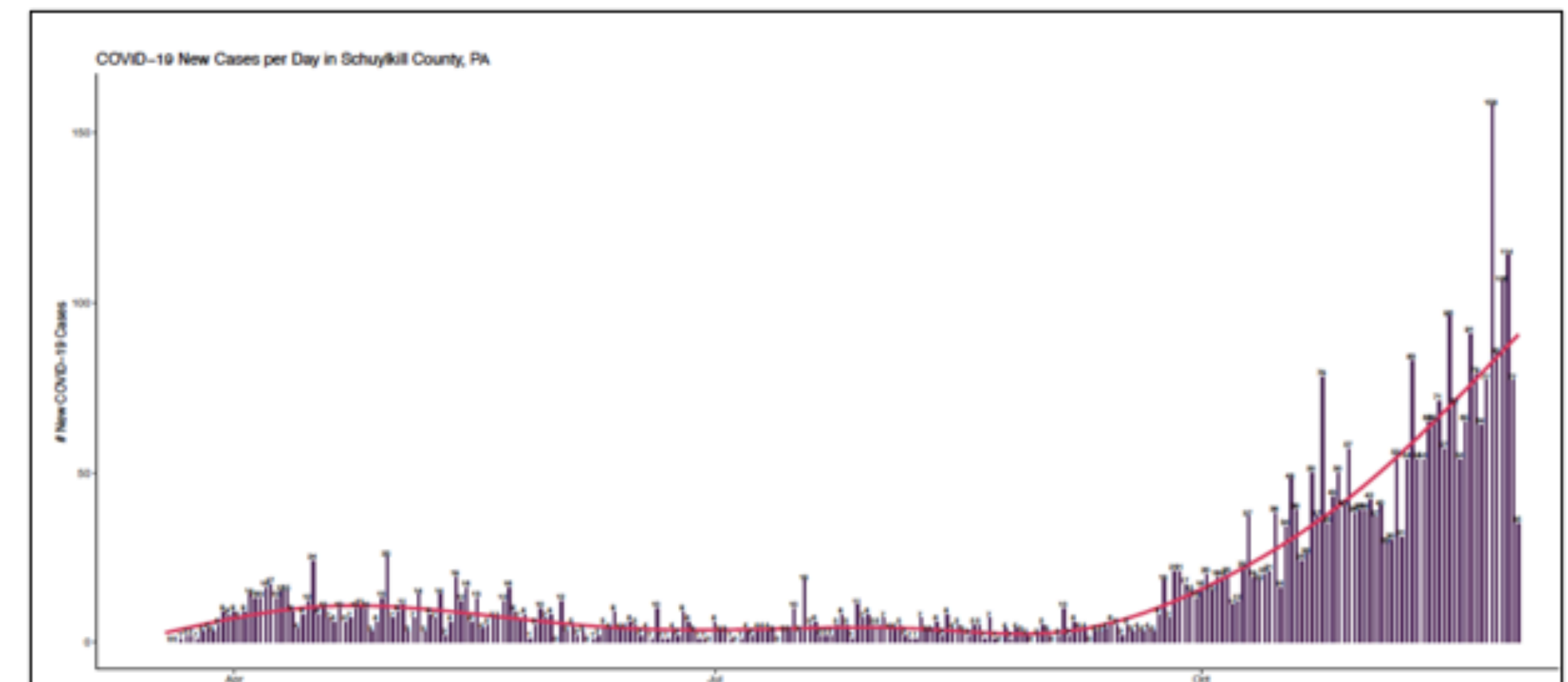
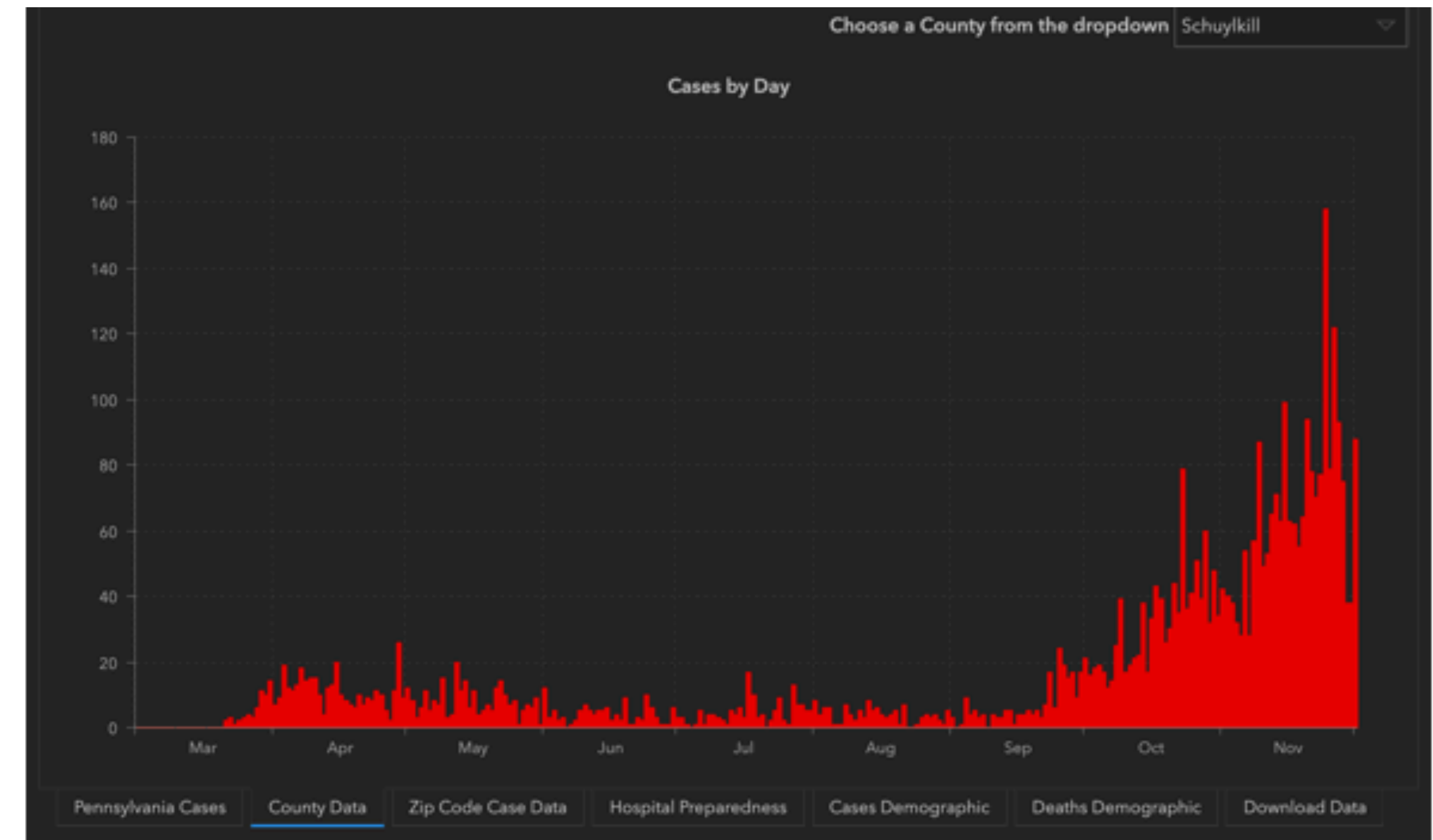
11/30 - 38 cases

12/1 - 88 cases

Sources:

PA DOH Dashboard, <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>

SLUHN, COVID-19 County Report (November 30, 2020)



COVID-19 Data and Reporting

St. Luke's University Health Network

SLUHN Service Area COVID-19 New Cases per 100,000

Location	Total Population	New Cases per 100,000 in the last day	New Cases per 100,000 in the last 7 days	New Cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days [PA DOH Target is <50]
Berks County	420152	19.5	289.4	580.3
Bucks County	628195	51.4	370.6	708.1
Carbon County	64227	23.4	404.8	669.5
Lehigh County	368100	27.2	394.7	757.1
Monroe County	169507	15.9	284.4	480.8
Montgomery County	828604	35.7	262.4	530.3
Northampton County	304807	34.1	367.4	717.2
Schuylkill County	142067	24.6	458.9	824.3
Warren County, NJ	105267	19.0	214.7	434.1

Data Sources: PA DOH, NJ DOH, U.S. Census

1.4 PA DOH Pre-K to 12 School Recommendations

County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 days)	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 days)	Level of Community Transmission in the County	Recommended Instructional Models
Berks	288.9	11.4%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Bucks	333.3	12.1%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Carbon	358.0	12.6%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Lehigh	394.5	13.1%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Monroe	228.9	11.6%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Montgomery	240.8	8.0%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Northampton	374.0	10.9%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model
Schuylkill	453.3	18.9%	Substantial	Full Remote Learning Model

Data Source: PA DOH Monitoring Dashboard: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx> (Updated Weekly)

Updated Guidance and Mitigation

Pennsylvania Department of Health & Pennsylvania Department of Education

- Travel Order: requires negative COVID-19 test or 14-day quarantine
- Universal Face Covering:
 - Must be worn at all times indoors
 - Must be worn outdoors when not with members of household
- Attestation to compliance with updated face covering order and positive case recommendations
 - Required for any school entity that intends to provide any in-person instruction that is designated with a substantial transmission level

Recommendations for Instructional Model

- Despite heightened transmission rates in Schuylkill County, Pottsville Area School District has not observed any significant number of positive cases.
- District administration closely monitors cases, consults with PA DOH, and communicates with all stakeholders when COVID-19 impacts our schools
- Pottsville Area School District should remain in the blended learning model, will enforce the updated face covering order, and will observe the recommendations when a positive COVID-19 case is identified within our schools. The blended learning model:
 - allows for all students and staff to physical distance during in-person learning
 - allows for greater supervision of students, including the enforcement of proper wearing of face coverings

Important Health & Safety Reminders

- Complete the daily health check each morning. If any symptoms are present, a student should not report for in-person instruction and should consult with a health care provider.
- Students and staff that have had direct contact with a known positive COVID-19 case must quarantine for 14-days starting on the date of the last known contact.
- If a student or any household member are awaiting COVID-19 test results, they may not return to in-person instruction until results are received.
- Masks must be worn by students and staff at all times while on school grounds.
- Students are highly encouraged to participate in live remote instruction when they are unable to attend in-person.

References

- Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2020, November 23). *Attestation ensuring implementation of mitigation efforts for public school entities*. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/AttestationForm.aspx>
- Pennsylvania Department of Health. (2020, November 23). *Updated order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health requiring universal face coverings*. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Updated%20Order%20of%20the%20Secretary%20Requiring%20Universal%20Face%20Coverings.pdf>
- Pennsylvania Department of Health. (2020, November 25). *Order of the Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Health for mitigation relating to travel (amended)*. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/SOH%20Travel%2011-25-2020.pdf>
- Pennsylvania Department of Health. (2020, December 1). *Schuylkill cases by day*. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>
- Pennsylvania Department of Health. (2020, December 2). *COVID-19 early warning monitoring system dashboard*. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>
- St. Luke's University Health Network. (2020, November 30). *COVID-19 county report*. [County_Report_11.30.2020.pdf](#)