

# QCSD School Reopening 2020-2021

## December Update

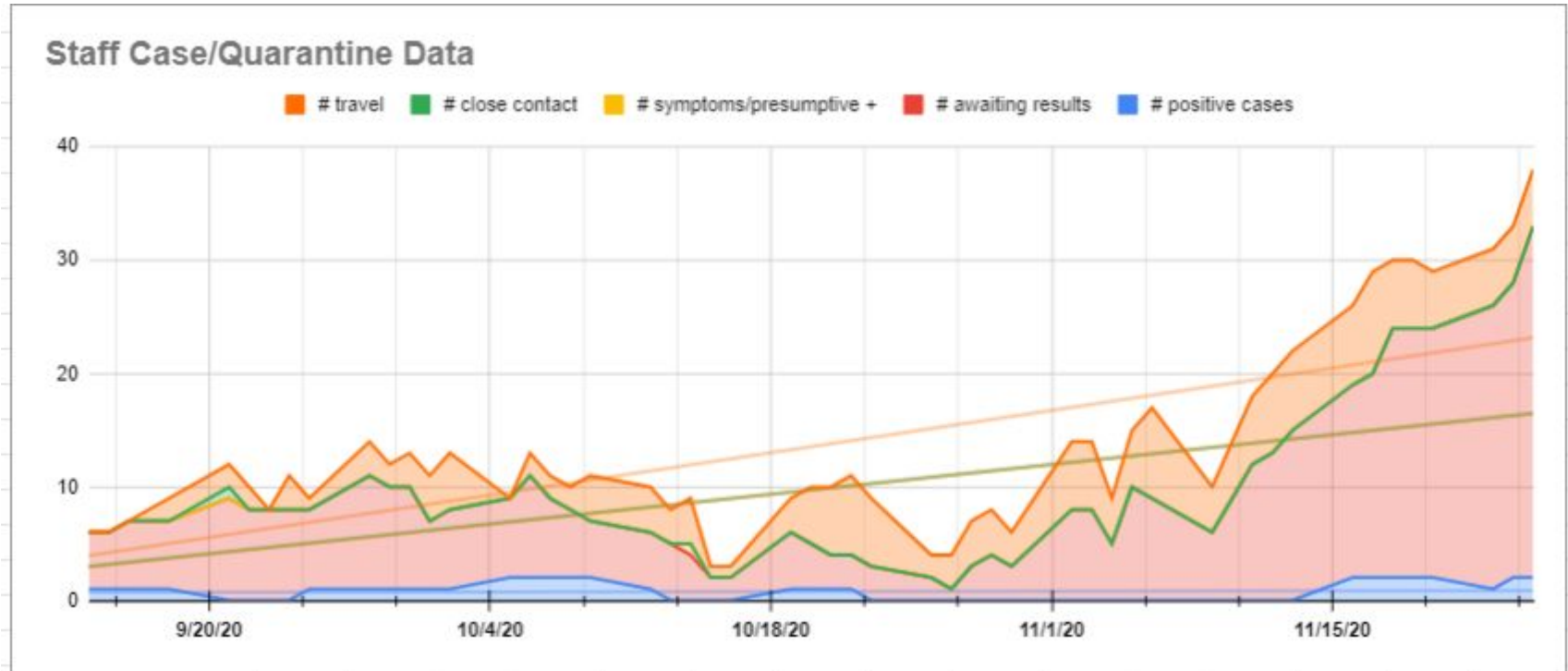
December 3, 2020



Office of the Superintendent

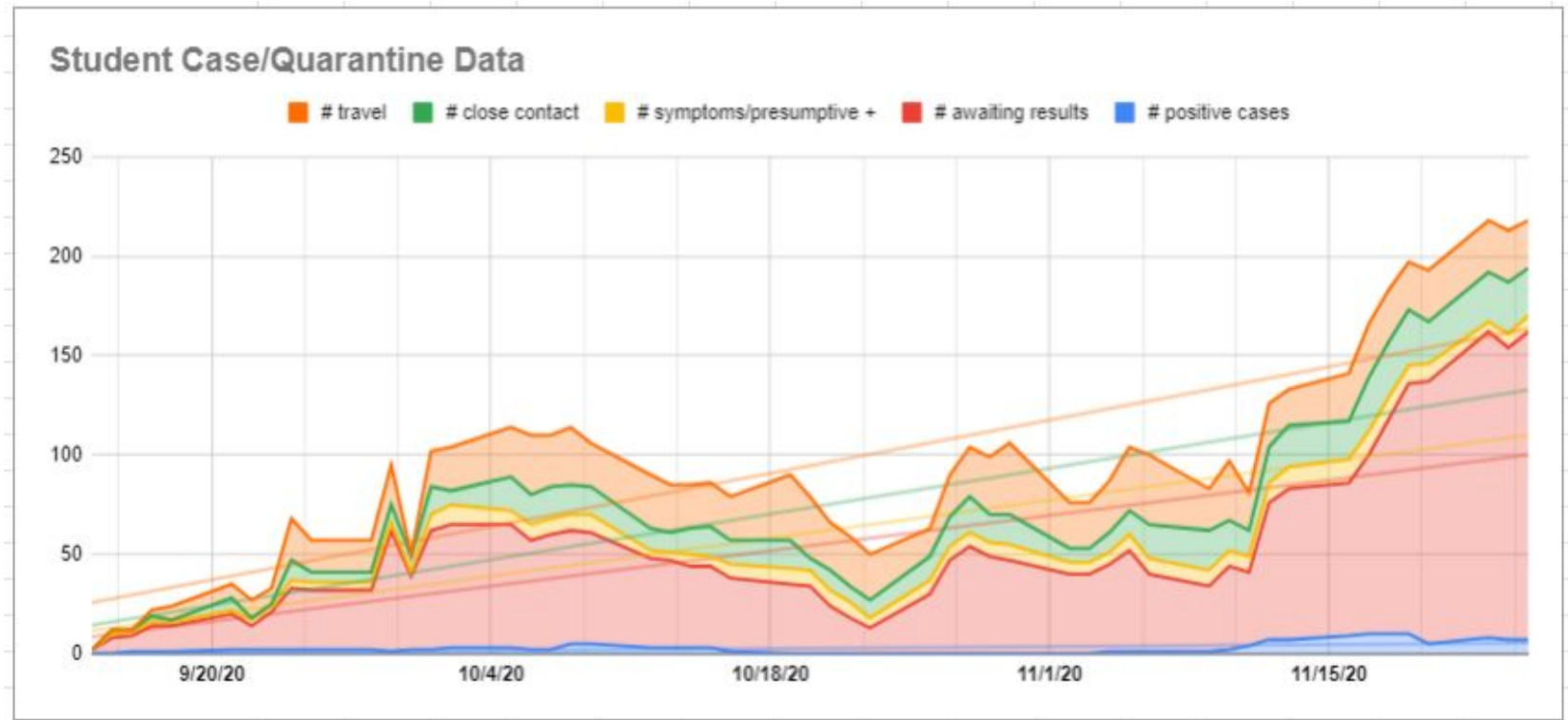


# District Staff Case and Quarantine Data





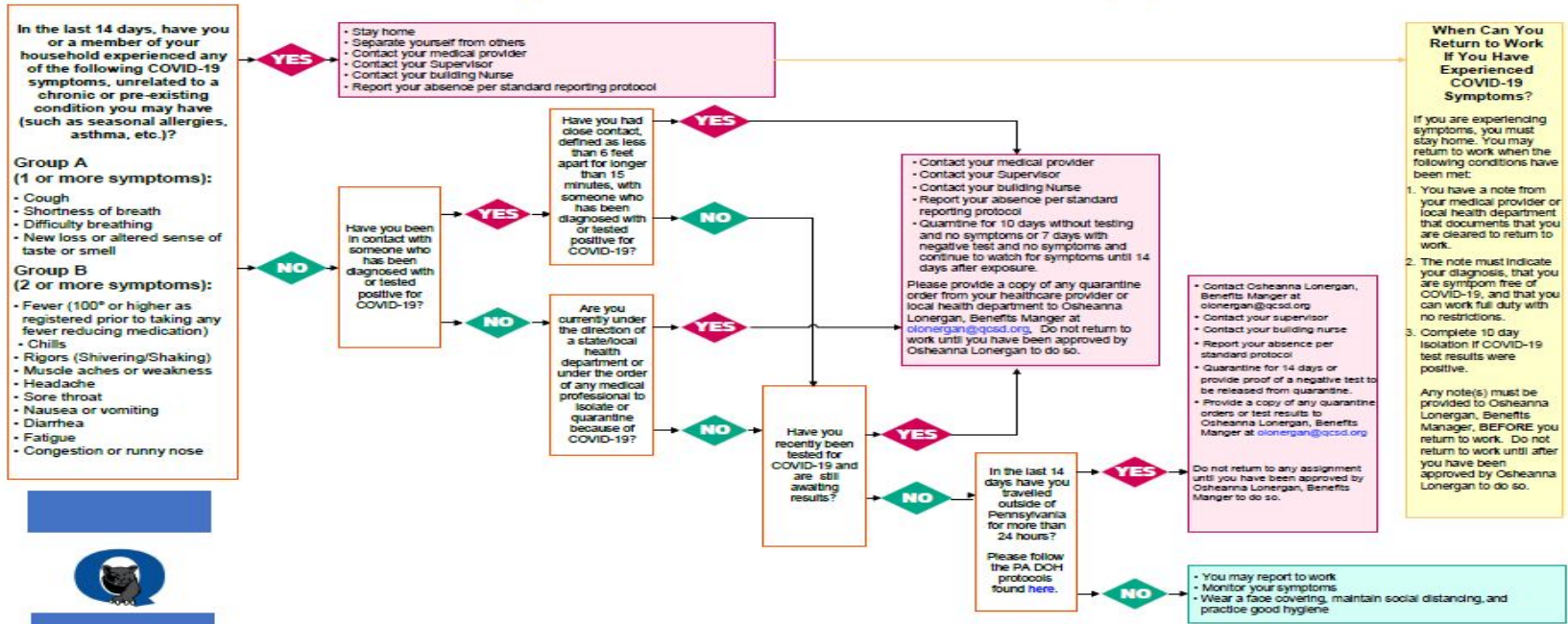
# Student Case and Quarantine Data





# What Happens When There Is A Positive Case?

## Guidance for Staffing Decisions Related to COVID-19 for QCSD Employees/Contractors



**When Can You Return to Work If You Have Experienced COVID-19 Symptoms?**

If you are experiencing symptoms, you must stay home. You may return to work when the following conditions have been met:

- You have a note from your medical provider or local health department that documents that you are cleared to return to work.
- The note must indicate your diagnosis, that you are symptom free of COVID-19, and that you can work full duty with no restrictions.
- Complete 10 day isolation if COVID-19 test results were positive.

Any note(s) must be provided to Osheanna Lonergan, Benefits Manager, BEFORE you return to work. Do not return to work until after you have been approved by Osheanna Lonergan to do so.

\*Based upon Board Approval



# PDE Guidance

On August 10, 2020, PDE released for [Determining Instructional Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), summarized in this chart.

As of the Week Ending 11/27/20, Bucks County and surrounding counties are now Substantial for the fourth consecutive week. PDE has now released new rules for determining the appropriate Instructional Model.

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



# What's Going Well, and Not

- Continued high level of compliance with Health and Safety Plan protocols at school
- No evidence of spread occurring in school buildings (buses are a concern)
- Overall staffing levels across the district are holding steady - not ideal, but sufficient to continue to provide live instruction K-12
- Case and hospitalization levels continue to rise in the region



# What We're Working On (pre-yesterday)

- Review of district quarantine data with nurses - we learned:
  - Additional positive cases reported in quarantined individuals when there was a positive household member
  - Additional positive cases reported in quarantined individuals when there was close contact on a bus
  - Additional positive cases did not occur in other situations (0)
- Recommendation:
  - Maintain quarantine protocol for household members, bus close contacts, and close contacts exhibiting symptoms
  - Reduce number of days of quarantine requirement for other close contacts without symptoms to 7 days with a negative test



# New CDC Quarantine Options

On December 1, 2020, the CDC released Options to [Reduce Quarantine for Contacts](#):

CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 with a negative test and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring





# Conflicting Quarantine Guidance

Current QCSD HSP	CDC	PA DOH	Bucks DOH
14 days	<p><b>As of 11/30/20:</b> Recommends 14 days with two alternative options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- after Day 10 without testing if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring</li><li>- after Day 7 with a negative test and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring</li></ul>	14 days  <i>PA DOH will communicate if/when it changes its quarantine guidance</i>	<p><b>As of 12/2/20:</b> For non-household contacts and truly isolated household contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported.</li><li>-after Day 7 if a test is negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. Testing can be done on Day 5 or later.</li></ul> <p>For non-isolated household contacts, the above applies after the infectious period (10 days) concludes.</p>



# Recommendation for QCSD Health and Safety Plan

Effective with Board approval of the change:

- Adopt the CDC/Bucks DOH quarantine guidelines
- Include bus close contacts in the “household contact” guidelines (14 days)
- Continue to monitor QCSD-specific cases to identify areas of concern going forward
- Adjust the QCSD Health and Safety Plan as required by new PA DOH and PDE Orders and mandates



# School Closures

## New Guidance = Attestation and New Requirements

On November 23, 2020, PDE released new [Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#).

By **Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health**, dated November 23, 2020, public PreK-12 school entities in counties with two consecutive weeks of substantial transmission must attest to complying to the following to continue offering any in-person instruction:

- The [Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#), including necessary exceptions and [associated guidance](#), and
- The [Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#).

**NOTE:** QCSD submitted our Attestation form by the November 30, 2020 deadline to allow us to continue to provide in-person instruction after the Thanksgiving Break.



# FAQ on How to Count Cases

- Rolling 14 day period, begins from symptom onset of the first case identified in the school (after December 1, 2020 for QCSD since we were closed for 5 days for the Thanksgiving break)
- A case in a school setting would include any confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 **when the individual was physically present in the school setting during the infectious period**, including but not limited to, instruction, work, sports, or extracurricular activities. The definition does not include individuals who were not physically present - virtual, quarantined, or absent, for example.
- The rolling 14-days **resets after a school closes for cases**. For instance, if a school has 9 cases, closes for 3 days for cleaning, etc. – when the students come back to school, the 14 days will not start again until there is another case.
- **Important Note:** Number of cases qualifying for counting might or might not be the same as building notifications issued for transparency



# Recommendations for Small (<500 students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

Applies to the Sixth Grade Center, all elementary schools, and the Academy

Recommendations for Small (<500 Students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19			
Level of Community Transmission in the county	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 1 student or 1 staff	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 2-4 students/staff in same school building	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 5+ students/staff in same school building
<b>Substantial†</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Clean area(s) where case spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 3-7 days*</li><li>• Clean area(s) where cases spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 14 days*</li><li>• Clean entire school</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>

\*If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.

†DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission. Schools that choose to pursue in-person instruction or other models in which school buildings are utilized by students and/or staff should follow the recommendations here.



# Recommendations for Medium (500–900 students) Pre–K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID–19

Applies to Strayer Middle School

Recommendations for Medium (500-900 Students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19			
Level of Community Transmission in the county	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 1-3 students or staff	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 4-6 students/staff in same school building	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period 7+ students/staff in same school building
Substantial†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Clean area(s) where case spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 3-7 days*</li><li>• Clean area(s) where cases spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 14 days*</li><li>• Clean entire school</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>

\*If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.

†DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission. Schools that choose to pursue in-person instruction or other models in which school buildings are utilized by students and/or staff should follow the recommendations here.



# Recommendations for Large (>900 students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19

Applies to the High School

Recommendations for Large (>900 Students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19			
Level of Community Transmission in the county	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period  1-5 students or staff	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period  6-10 students/staff in same school building	Number of Cases of COVID-19 Within a Rolling 14-day period  11+ students/staff in same school building
Substantial†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Clean area(s) where case spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 3-7 days*</li><li>• Clean area(s) where cases spent time</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School should consider altering schedule to significantly decrease number of students on site</li><li>• Close school(s) for 14 days*</li><li>• Clean entire school</li><li>• Public health staff will direct close contacts to quarantine</li></ul>

\*If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.

†DOH and PDE recommend a Full Remote Learning Model for all schools in counties with substantial level of community transmission. Schools that choose to pursue in-person instruction or other models in which school buildings are utilized by students and/or staff should follow the recommendations here.



## \* The Importance of the Asterisk

\* If case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time can be shortened

*What does this mean from a practical standpoint?*





# Attestation Part 1: Contact Tracing

When notified of a positive case, our nurses do case investigation to support the Bucks County DOH contact tracing process:

- Last day in school/work and days attended
- Where there might be close contacts:
  - Classrooms - seating charts and room sign in sheets
  - Buses - seating charts
  - Extracurricular activities - coach or adviser data
- Possible close contacts get our close contact letter and our nurses share the information with the Bucks County DOH for contact tracing
- **NOTE:** The return to 5 days a week instruction greatly increased the number of close contacts identified since students are not 6 feet apart in many/most secondary classrooms.



# Asterisk Impact – Contact Tracing

In most cases, our district nurses complete Case Investigation and identification of close contacts to exclude from live school within 24 hours. Their case reports are invaluable to the Bucks County Department of Health in completing contact tracing quickly.

So in most cases, we **will not** need to close a school to provide time for “within school” contact tracing, even though Bucks County DOH may not have officially completed the process. Bucks County DOH has also prioritized contact tracing for school related cases within their office to support schools in minimizing closures.



# Attestation Part 2: Cleaning/Disinfecting Process When the Closure Threshold is Reached

Per [CDC](#) and [PA DOH](#):

“Schools should close off all areas used by a case and not use those areas again until after [cleaning and disinfecting](#). This may include a classroom, common areas used by the case such as lunchrooms and restrooms, gyms and locker rooms, school transportation options like a bus or van, and in some cases, the entire school building. Students should not be present when disinfectants are being used...”

“To protect the health of janitorial and cleaning staff, schools should wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.”



# Asterisk Impact – Cleaning/Disinfecting

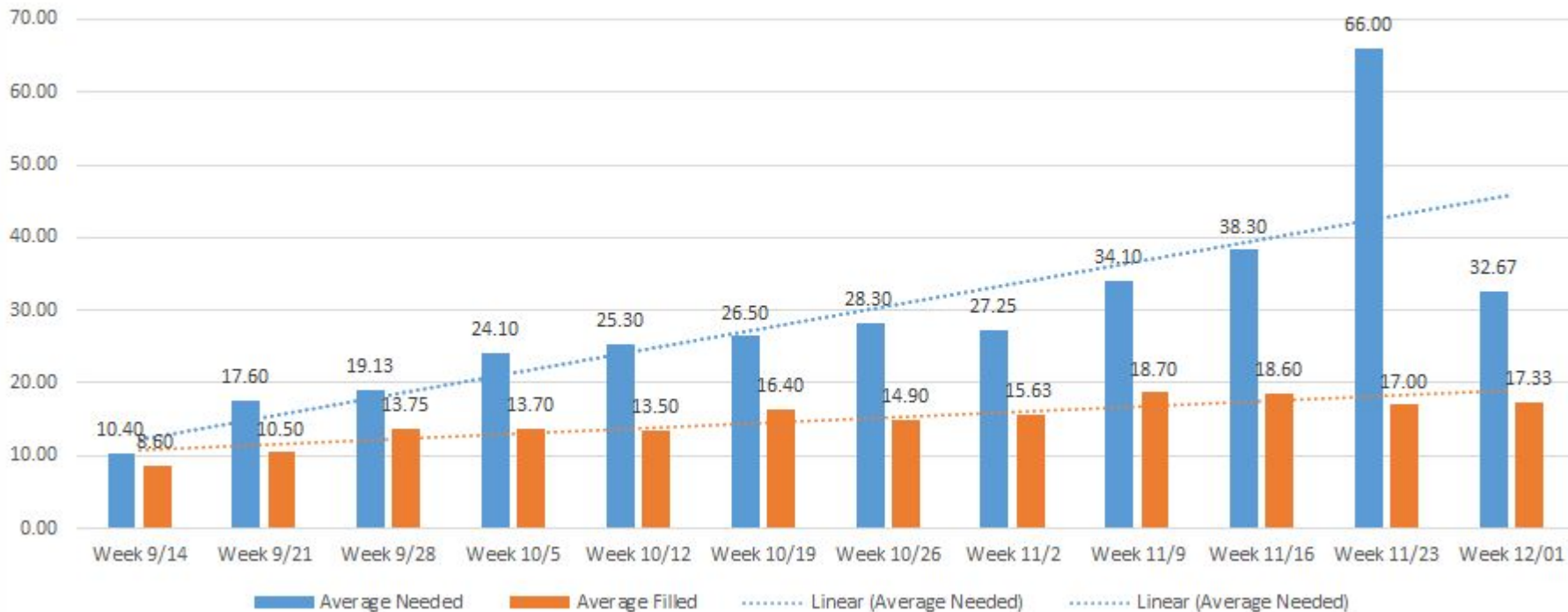
- Impact is highly dependent on which building, number of cases, and scope of areas that need to be cleaned and disinfected
  - Small building, limited areas = limited impact
  - Large building, many areas = greater impact
- Timing is also important - hitting the closure threshold on a Monday will have more impact than hitting the closure threshold on a Friday
- Cascading impact on cleaning (not disinfecting) in other school buildings is expected
- SSC and QCSD Facilities are developing detailed plans for various cleaning/disinfecting scenarios to maximize efficiency and minimize the length of closures

So in most cases, a short term closure (one day) **will** be needed to meet the cleaning/disinfecting requirements, subject to the variables noted.

# Continued Staffing Challenges - Unfilled Substitute Openings



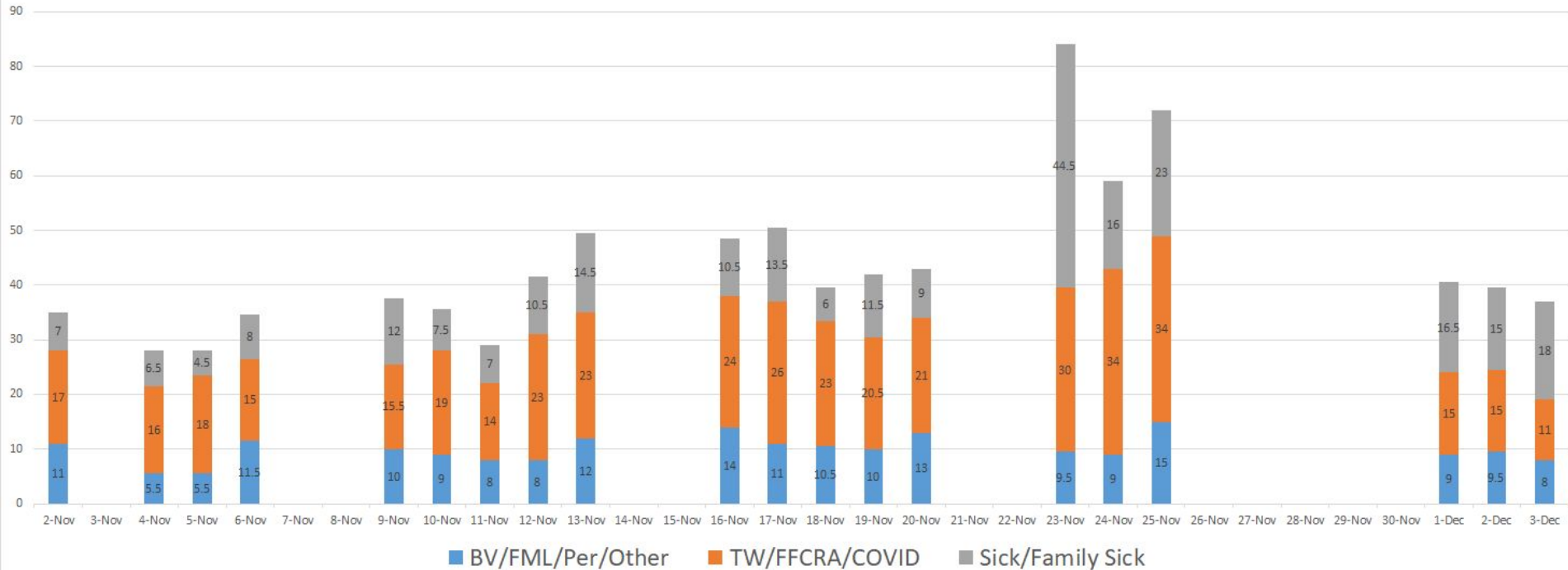
Subs Needed vs Filled



# Continued Staffing Challenges – Analysis of Absences



November - District Professional Absences





# Looking Ahead

## Potential for Limited Closures Related to Cases

- Most likely not needed for contact tracing
- Short term closures possible for cleaning and disinfecting process

## Potential for Limited Closures Related to Staffing

- Continue to be possible
- Warning System for parents - YELLOW ALERT
- Activated when there are not enough adults to provide supervision in a building
- Similar to weather emergencies

## Other Factors

- Decisions in other counties where many of our teachers live - so far, so good
- Evolving PA DOH and PDE guidance



# Recommendations for Board Action

1. Amend the QCSD Health and Safety Plan to reflect the new quarantine recommendations as described in the slide earlier in the presentation:
  - a. Adopt the CDC/Bucks DOH quarantine guidelines as described in the chart
  - b. Include bus close contacts in the “household contact” guidelines
  - c. Continue to monitor QCSD-specific cases to identify areas of concern going forward
  
2. Authorize hiring of additional nursing staff to support timely case investigation if needed





QUESTIONS?