

Information About an Upcoming Project to Understand the Classroom Environment and COVID-19 in Schools

About This Project

We are interested in learning how the set-up of a classroom may affect the spread of COVID-19 in K-12 schools. This project will look at classroom layouts, air flow, and distances between students and staff in schools that had someone test positive for COVID-19 while they were in the classroom. This project may help us understand ways to keep K-12 schools healthy for students, teachers, and staff.

We will be working with school districts in Montgomery and Delaware Counties that have had students or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 while in school. We will work with schools that have strong COVID-19 testing programs and strong contact tracing programs. These are programs that identify people exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 and notify them of their exposure.

This project is a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Chester County Health Department, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and local schools.

What To Expect During The Project

Schools will provide class schedules, seating charts, and list of close contacts for staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 and were in school while infectious. This information will be provided to the county health department under the current information sharing arrangement between the schools and the county health department. All classroom measurements will be taken after school hours when students are not present.

How We Will Protect the Privacy of Students, School Staff, and Teachers

We are committed to protecting the privacy of students, staff, and the school community. We will not be collecting staff or students' names. Instead, we will use identification numbers for the students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 and for people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. We will not use the names of schools and school districts in any reports, publications, or presentations.

If you have other questions, please contact your school district representative for more information.