



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 2020 – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Tier 1 learning model?

The Tier 1 learning model includes livestream instruction. Students progress through their classes, but on a modified schedule.

2. Which schools are moving to Tier 1 (fully remote) instruction on December 7th?

The secondary schools, Big Spring High School and Big Spring Middle School, are moving to Tier 1 on Monday, December 7, 2020.

3. Are elementary schools moving to Tier 1?

All elementary buildings will remain in the current Tier 2 structure during the week of December 7th - 11th. All elementary families should begin planning for the strong potential of moving to Tier 1 instruction on December 14th.

4. When will students return to the Tier 2 (hybrid) learning model?

The District is planning to return to the Tier 2 learning model on Monday, January 11, 2020. Confirmation of this return date will happen in early January and the decision will be directly informed by the level of community and intra-district spread.

5. Why are the secondary schools moving to a Tier 1 learning model and why are the elementary schools not moving to Tier 1 at the same time?

Currently, the District has over 10% of instructional staff actively in quarantine as being either confirmed cases or because they met the criteria as a “close contact” to a confirmed case. This presents tremendous challenges to staffing and as a result, the secondary schools will shift to a Tier 1, fully remote learning model.

This staffing challenge is also evident at the elementary level. Despite that, all resources utilized to support the staffing challenges at the secondary level are being shifted to supplement existing resources at the elementary level to meet this staffing challenge. The goal will be to provide one more week of face-to-face instruction so that teachers can prepare students for this transition. In addition, it provides families with time to prepare before rather than having an abrupt shift to Tier 1.

6. With the secondary schools moving to Tier 1, what does that mean for VoTech?

As long as Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School stays in a face-to-face hybrid learning model we will transport Big Spring students for their face-to-face day at Vo-Tech. This includes transportation to and from home to VoTech.

7. Will extracurricular activities continue while secondary schools are in Tier 1?

Given that our current adjustment to Tier 1 is being driven by staffing challenges, we are able to continue offering our winter activities within the guidelines of the “Resocialization of Athletics and Activities Plan”. It should be noted that we will follow all safety protocols as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education, specific athletic programs could be suspended for given time periods based on positive COVID results.

8. Tech Helpdesk/Device Repairs

Students and parents should report technical concerns related to district provided devices by emailing helpdesk@bigsspringsd.org. Please provide the name of the student, a call back number and a brief description of the problem. A Technician will call to assist over the phone. If the issue cannot be resolved over the phone the device will need to be dropped off at the district office. Most repairs received in the morning will be ready for pickup by the end of the day. Parents/guardians will be notified when repairs are completed. If a parent/guardian is unable to email, they should contact their school office via phone and an office secretary will assist with an email to the tech department.

9. How can I get additional academic support for my student?

Students may get academic support, outside of their assigned class periods, throughout the day by emailing virtualresource@bigspring.k12.pa.us or calling 717-776-2000 ext. 1601 with a request for support. Please include in your email/voice message a contact name/number and description of the academic support you need. You can also visit www.bigsspringsd.org/athomelearning for more information and additional At Home Learning resources.

10. Should I continue to update the school with any instances of confirmed COVID cases or possible exposures to confirmed COVID cases with my family while in Tier 1?

Yes. Open lines of communication will continue to be one of the most important factors to helping mitigate the community and intra-district spread of this virus. Your main point of contact should continue to be your school nurse. Please reach out to them directly by calling one of the following:

- Big Spring High School Nursing Office: (717) 776-2000 Ext. 2450
- Big Spring Middle School Nursing Office: (717) 776-2000 Ext. 2469
- Mount Rock Elementary School Nursing Office: (717) 776-2000 Ext. 3004
- Newville Elementary School Nursing Office: (717) 776-2000 Ext. 4307
- Oak Flat Elementary School Nursing Office: (717) 776-2000 Ext. 5005