



Office of the Superintendent  
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August 31, 2021

To the Lebanon City School Community,

As we started this school year, our goal has always been to minimize disruption to learning because we know that in-person learning is the best method to educate our students. Our desire is to keep our schools open for our students. We began the year clearly stating that we would monitor our data and make course corrections if they were necessary. We believe we have reached a point where we must adjust our course to maintain our educational programming.

Our district leadership team has closely monitored the number of COVID-19 cases involving students and staff, and the resulting quarantines. We regularly monitor and discuss the data from Lebanon, Warren County, and Region 6 and consult with the Warren County Health District.

In the past week we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases reported and the subsequent quarantines have surpassed 900 students. We experienced a sudden increase in positive cases reported this Sunday and Monday. Lebanon Schools currently have 80 positive cases in the district and nearly 20% of our students are absent. This sudden increase requires us to take action to intervene in the spread of the virus in our community and to protect the educational continuity of our students. The extended absences of quarantines and isolations has significantly impacted our ability to efficiently educate our students and we must intervene.

Our Board of Education voted to approve several action steps on Monday, August 30th.

- All of our buildings will pause in-person learning from Wednesday, September 1 through Friday, September 3. Students will not attend school on those days and classes will resume Tuesday, September 7. No new information will be covered during this time.
- Effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021, all students and staff will be required to wear a mask in all school buildings. This requirement will be in effect until Friday, September 24, 2021. We will review the data on September 24th and will reevaluate if the masks are still needed at that time.
- The Board approved an administrative guideline outlining the data we will review and established the parameters for making future decisions regarding mask requirements.

We all desired normalcy as we started the school year. However, our data indicates we need to intervene and change our mitigation strategies in effort to stay safe and keep students in school. Please continue to conduct a self-assessment at home prior to coming to school or school events. If you are sick, you need to stay home. We believe this is the single most important thing we can do to slow the spread of this virus in our community.

We appreciate your emails and phone calls and we have listened to your concerns. I want to reiterate what I wrote in a letter earlier this month. We will continue to seek input from caregivers; however, we will not make decisions solely based on parent input or opinions, but also in consultation with local health officials as we monitor our school and community data. Our current data indicates we need to act and local health officials have recommended that we intervene at this time as well.

Additional information on this decision will be available on our website at [Back to School 21/22](#).

Sincerely,

Isaac W. SeEVERS  
Superintendent