



# Lebanon Public Schools

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December 11, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

The 2-week average daily rate of new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people for the 2-week period ending December 5, 2020 is 34.7. There were 35 new cases during that time period. This means we are still a Red Alert community. Uncas Health District shared that this week, there have been 12 new cases as of Thursday, December 9. To access the COVID-19 Data website use, <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/q5as-kyim>.

The continued rise in cases is creating a lot of concern and discussion about keeping schools open. It becomes a matter of how best to provide students with instruction while keeping the students and staff safe. I have been reporting in these weekly letters that the DPH and CSDE have been recommending schools remain open as the spread of COVID-19 in schools has been minimal in CT and elsewhere. In Lebanon, we have not had any spread of COVID-19 in our schools. People who state schools should be in Hybrid or Distance Learning do so because they say it will be safer. Data does not support this. If you visit this website, <https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/COVID-19-Cases-in-CT-Public-Schools-State-Summary-vvjf-9vkr>, you will find the number of student COVID-19 cases based on Remote, Hybrid and In Person instruction. For the two most recent reporting periods, students in Remote have had the highest number of new student cases. For each of the previous reporting periods, Hybrid was highest. Moving to Hybrid or Distance Learning will not slow the spread of COVID-19.

I closed LMS recently because we did not have enough substitutes to cover for staff that needed to quarantine. As of this writing, we have not had any additional student or staff cases of COVID-19. We have also experienced an increase in applications for substitutes.

**At this time, we will continue with In School instruction for LES and Lyman. LMS will remain in Distance Learning for Dec. 14-15 and return to In School instruction on Dec. 16.**

## **Survey for Secondary Students**

The CT State Department of Education is interested in learning from middle and high school students what Connecticut Schools can do to make you feel even more connected, energized and enthusiastic about learning this year. The Thoughtexchange platform is being used to solicit your feedback.

Notes about this process:

1. It could take you as little as 5 - 10 minutes to participate.

2. You can complete questions at your own pace and come back to review your answers at any time.

3. There are three ways you can access the Thoughtexchange:

- Please click HERE <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#254760758> to participate.
- Go to <https://www.thoughtexchange.com/> click on the "Join" button and enter the code 254-760-758
- Download the Thoughtexchange app (IOS) only, click on the "Join" button and enter the code 254-760-758

Lebanon students, let your voices be heard.

### **Farmers to Families Food Box Program**

Please see the flyer included with this letter for a food distribution program happening at the Lebanon Lions Fairgrounds this Sunday, December 13th.

### **COVID-19 Reminders**

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members:


- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maximize social distancing between yourself and others when outside of your home.

### **COVID-19 Testing Information**

The State publishes guidance on when people should get a COVID-19 test on this website, <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/COVID-19-Testing>. You will find a link there to assist you in locating testing sites.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Angeli  
Superintendent of Schools

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