



Lebanon Public Schools

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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 12, 2020 is 38.7. There were 39 new cases during that time period; 23 in the first week and 16 in the second week. This means we are still a Red Alert community. Uncas Health District shared that this week, there have been 6 new cases as of Thursday, December 17. To access the COVID-19 Data website use, <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/q5as-kyim>.

The data from last week and this week are encouraging, but we remain very concerned about the continued rise in cases. We have seen this manifested in an increase in students opting for Distance Learning (DL). This is true in particular at Lyman where we have about 49% of students in DL either by choice or quarantine. At LMS 23% of students are in DL and at LES 18% of students are in DL. As throughout the pandemic, I continue to receive communications from staff and parents recommending that schools should close. I also receive communications from staff and parents asking me to keep schools open. I appreciate the concerns and opinions that have been shared with me. These are not easy times and the unknown has us all concerned.

In my communications with Uncas Health District officials, I review the concerns, discuss data trends, review the ages of recent COVID-19 cases and discuss potential impacts on our schools. I also discuss with other superintendents what is happening in their districts and communities. We have been more fortunate than some of the other communities and districts because we have not seen the same level of impact in the schools.

I moved LMS and Lyman to DL today to do contact tracing associated with a staff member testing positive. The tracing and calling at both schools has been completed. There is no need for continued DL at either school.

At this time, we will continue with In School instruction for Lyman, LMS and LES.

Enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Angeli
Superintendent of Schools