



# Lebanon Public Schools

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Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff,

In the last few days, we have identified new cases of COVID 19 that have been confirmed. I write today to let you know that the cases, all involving our elementary school, have been well-handled by school staff. Two students have tested positive as well as one adult staff member. As each of these cases are unique to each other, contact tracing protocols were, as you might expect, widespread and time consuming. I am happy to report that all contact tracing has been completed and all students and staff identified as close contacts have been notified and have begun their period of appropriate quarantine. At this time, the elementary school will continue with In Person learning. The high school and the middle school are also in In Person learning, with the exception of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade will return to In Person learning on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**A Gentle Reminder:** It is worth noting for students, parents/guardians and staff alike, that we are noticing an uptick in our case numbers. Cases that may or may not result in close contact isolation and quarantine nonetheless impact us and we are mindful that last week and this week have seen an increase in confirmed cases of the virus. With these new case numbers and in consultation with health care professionals and other school districts, we find a correlation between travel, vacation and long weekend activities as contributors to virus transition. With that, it bears repeating that activities outside of the school day such as travel, social gatherings, play-dates, etc. continue to appear to contribute to the spread/transmission of the virus. Please join us in monitoring the need for any such events.

## **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.

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Ciccone