



Lebanon Public Schools

891 EXETER ROAD, LEBANON, CONNECTICUT 06249-1731
Tel. (860) 642-7795 Fax. (860) 642-4589

PATRICIA A. CICCONE, Interim Superintendent of Schools
patricia.cicccone@lebanonct.org

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Good Afternoon Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff:

This week's report from the Uncas Health District (UHD) shows our 2-week average daily rate of new cases of COVID – 19 per 100,000 people for the 2-week period ending April 3rd as 26.8%, up from the 15.9% of our last Friday report. There were 27 new cases during this 2-week period (March 21, 2021 through April 3, 2021). This two-week period, once again, shows a marked jump in cases of confirmed COVID-19 for the Lebanon Community. That does jive with what we have been experiencing in the schools and what has been reported to you. There has been a definite increase in confirmed cases and they continue to come in as confirmed more rapidly. Lebanon remains in the Red Alert status. That is also consistent with the state of CT tracking map now showing most of the state in Red Alert. The state's COVID – 19 data are available on the following website,

<https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-data/wa3q-tfvc/>

Clearly, the above data depicts the state and national surge. While the identified cases are scrutinized by officials to determine the cause (variants such as the UK, NY and other variants (state officials have acknowledged that the primary cause is individual relaxation of mitigation strategies that have come to be known as the foundation for lessening transmission. They are simple and schools are advised to continue urging their use. Our usual reminders are below.

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 the sake of all as we continue to wait for more vaccination percentages, please follow CDC approved mitigation strategies and minimize attendance at gathering and exercise a minimum of six-foot distancing between yourself and others at all times when outside your home. Individuals who may

be considered fully vaccinated (14 days from their last required dosage of any of the current vaccines) may be following other CDC guidelines for socializing in close contact in their homes with others who are also considered fully vaccinated. Please note those guidelines are intended to direct family cohorts with other family cohorts within households. Please be advised that schools **are not** considered households under those CDC recommendations.

Despite the increases in confirmed cases, our overall learning model will remain as an In-Person model. Responding quickly to each report, our administrators and nurses have been swiftly getting through close contact tracing. With that, we have been able to isolate the potential transmission areas to specific classrooms, bus runs and/or grade levels. Placing those in quarantine protocols into Remote Learning is helping us to avoid full Remote Learning for all schools. **Again, we will remain in In-Person learning upon our return, Monday, April 12th.**

Travel Advisory Recommendations for individuals not considered fully vaccinated. In anticipation of a spring break week, please note that the CT Dept. of Public Health continues to strongly recommend limiting travel to prevent the transmission of COVID 19. Critically important are the CDC travel advisory recommendations that should be followed. Those include:

- Testing before travel – (1-3 days)
- Testing after travel – (3-5 days)
- Avoiding crowds, mask wearing and social distancing while at your destination
- Self-quarantining while awaiting test results and completing the quarantine maximum for 7 days even after a negative test result
- See updated CDC travel advisory guidance for fully vaccinated individuals

COVID – 19 Testing Information

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

Important and Helpful News:

- **The USDA is sponsoring a FREE food box distribution event on Saturday, April 10th, at the Lebanon Lions Fair Ground starting at 9am. There are 200 boxes of produce and dairy available. This event is first come, first serve. There is a limit of one food box per family. Please remain in your vehicle, open your trunk, and wear a mask if interacting with staff/others. Please see the flyer attached to our alert message.**

Have a safe weekend everyone. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Ciccone