

Lebanon Public Schools

Continuity of Services Plan

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022

Updates-January 18, 2022

Note: This plan will be revised at regular intervals to ensure safety and continuity of services.



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Ensuring a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Lebanon Public Schools Fall Reopening Plan 2021-22	
<p>Student Masks</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students will be required to wear masks based on the Governor's executive order as well as the Department of Public Health and State Department of Education recommendations. Students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them. Mask requirements will be adjusted as guidance allows.
<p>Adult Masks</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will be required to wear masks based on the Governor's executive order as well as the Department of Public Health and State Department of Education recommendations. Teachers, staff, and volunteers must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for teachers, staff, and volunteers. Executive Order 13A by the Governor gives the DPH Commissioner the authority to determine where masks are to be worn through SEPTEMBER 30. Schools are among that list and therefore mask usage is required through SEPTEMBER 30. Mask requirements will be adjusted as guidance allows.
<p>COVID Vaccinations</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student vaccinations will be encouraged, but not required. Staff vaccinations will be required.
<p>Volunteers & Guests</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers and guests will be required to wear masks based on the Governor's executive order as well as the Department of Public Health and State Department of Education recommendations. Volunteers, guests, visitors, and parents will have limited access to buildings during the school day.
<p>Board of Education Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Education (Policy 6114.81) has granted to the Superintendent of Schools temporary authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, provide for the health and safety of students, employees, or respond to the direction from the State of Connecticut and/or the local health district.

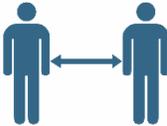
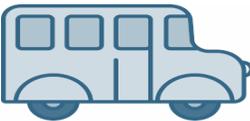
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regardless of Board policy, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools must adhere to Executive Orders from the Governor, legislation by the General Assembly, and requirements of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.
<p style="text-align: center;">Learning Model</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students will attend school five days per week in-person.
<p style="text-align: center;">Remote Learning</p> 	<p>Effective January 3, 2022 remote learning will be considered an official school day in the following limited circumstances: 1) for students who must be in isolation due to a confirmed COVID-19 infection, or who must quarantine due to close contact with a confirmed case; 2) in rare and individualized circumstances, for students with live-in family members who have documented an unusual vulnerability to COVID-19; 3) in those rare cases in which a Planning and Placement Team determines that instruction in the home provides the student with a free appropriate public education the least restrictive environment and revises the student’s Individualized Education Program accordingly; or 4) should there be an order issued at some point during the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year that requires school or district closures pursuant to emergency declaration. Please note that local health districts do not have the authority to issue such emergency declarations. Such declaration can only be issued pursuant to legislative or gubernatorial authority.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Homeschooling</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary homeschooling learning will not be included as an option for students. Families who wish to homeschool children will need to withdraw students from school. (Note: Students are always allowed to return to school if parents wish to re-enroll.)
<p style="text-align: center;">Google Meet Model</p> 	<p>The Google Meet model will not be available to absent students during the school day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students who are not vaccinated and are quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction. Students who are COVID-19 positive confirmed by testing will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction. Students who are not vaccinated and are awaiting results from COVID-19 testing will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of Students who have a medical condition or surgical procedure that prevents them from attending school should contact their building Principal to be considered for homebound instruction.
<p style="text-align: center;">Re-orientation for Remote & Homeschool Learners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative teams at each school will offer a “re-orientation” over the summer to those students who were temporary remote learners or temporary homeschool learners during the 2020-21 school year.

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<p>Illness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and students must stay home if they are feeling sick Unvaccinated staff and students must stay home and be tested if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
<p>Morning Health Screening</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.
<p>COVID Testing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing is encouraged for vaccinated students and staff if there are persistent COVID-19 symptoms present. Testing is required for unvaccinated staff and students if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals must stay home until test results are shared with the school.
<p>Social Distancing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students are encouraged to maintain social distance (3 feet in classroom and 6 feet in other settings) to the most reasonable extent possible given the situation (classroom, lunches, outdoor activities).
<p>Bus Transportation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students will be required to wear masks based on the Governor's executive order as well as the Department of Public Health and State Department of Education recommendations. Students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them. Executive Order 13A by the Governor gives the DPH Commissioner the authority to determine where masks are to be worn through February 15, 2022. Public transportation is among that list and therefore mask usage is required through February 15, 2022. Mask requirements will be adjusted as guidance allows.
<p>Parent Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents who drove students to school during the 2020-21 school year are encouraged to have students take the bus in the fall of 2021.

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<p>Gloves & PPE</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will have full access to protective equipment, face shields, and masks that are requested or required for job performance. • Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who wish to use them.
<p>Hand Sanitizer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer stations and bottles will be available in all schools. • Students may bring hand sanitizer to school.
<p>Hand Washing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be reminded to practice good hand washing habits and wash hands for 20 seconds, following CDC guidelines.
<p>Desk Wipes</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will continue to provide wipes for desks, tables, chairs, and classroom items that are shared during the school day.
<p>Desk Shields</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk shields will not be utilized in the classrooms on a regular basis (however they will be offered as an added mitigation measure when in a surge). • Teachers will be free to use desk shields for certain activities or for certain individuals, if desired.
<p>Entrances & Hallways</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students will be allowed two-way traffic patterns at entrances and in hallways. • Student groupings will be allowed to be in the hallways simultaneously.
<p>Lockers</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have regular access to lockers based on guidelines from the school administration. • Students at the Lebanon Elementary School will have regular access to the cubby area of the classroom based on guidelines from the school administration.
<p>Cafeteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotations have been created for students to enjoy their lunch experience in the cafeteria at times and in order to follow social distance recommendations. • All breakfasts and lunches will be provided to students at no cost. • Homeschool families may access breakfast and lunches at no cost for students under the age of 18.

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<p>Learning Cohorts in Grades K-8</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in Grades 9-12 will continue with non-cohorted classes. • Students in Grades 6-8 will not be placed in single cohorts (as was the case in 2020-21) and will be able to travel the halls between classes to assigned classrooms. • Students in Grades K-4 will remain in typical classroom configurations; however, students will be able to travel to specials rooms including art and music.
<p>Outdoor Classes</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-owned tents and concrete ballasts will remain in place from August-November and April-June for classes and events during school and after school. • Teachers will be free to utilize the space for outdoor classes and activities.
<p>Mental & Emotional Health</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school will continue to plan for experiences that ensure that the schools place adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Strategies will be identified to engage populations and specific students that have been disengaged. • Schools will develop programming designed to help children and adults in the school community to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. • Schools will plan for SEL that is integrated into academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections. • Grades PreK-4 will continue with the <i>Second Step</i> curriculum. • Grade 5-8 will continue with the building level lessons developed by a committee. • LMHS will continue to utilize a daily opportunity to work with students on Social Emotional learning and self-awareness. This supports our efforts for students to develop a strong relationship with adults in the building. • The Middle School and High School (Grades 5-12) will utilize <i>Beacon</i> by GoGuardian. The program identifies students who are at risk of suicide or possible harm to others through threats, violence, and bullying. Through activity on district-issued Chromebooks, Beacon identifies concerns through use of the Google education programs utilized by the district as well as activity on search engines, chat, social media, email, web apps, and more.
<p>Music Performing Groups</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music performing groups and large instrumental and vocal ensembles will be permitted to rehearse and perform, following guidelines issued by the Connecticut DPH and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).
<p>Art/PE/ Music Shared Equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment may be shared among students as appropriate and based on the nature of the equipment will be wiped down between uses. • Students will be encouraged to sanitize hands after using shared equipment. • TECH Ed/ASTE will wipe down their own equipment.

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<p>Recess</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student masks will be welcome outdoors, but not required. • There will be no recess cohorts (except when cases surge). Student groupings during recess will be less restrictive and be based on the appropriate patterns for each grade level. • Equipment may be shared among students as appropriate and based on the nature of the equipment will be wiped down between uses. • Students will be encouraged to sanitize hands after recess.
<p>Athletics</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle School and High School will continue to follow CIAC guidance for fall, winter, and spring sports. • The Lebanon Public Schools will not be more restrictive than any guidelines from the CIAC, except when student cases surge or participation puts Lebanon children in a position of elevated risk.
<p>Locker Rooms</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have limited access to locker rooms before and after athletic practices and contests. • As needed, students will have access to locker rooms during PE activities.
<p>Clubs & Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All after school, evening clubs and activities, and school sponsored events shall resume in full.
<p>Concerts / Theater Events</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no limit, with the exception of the size of the hall, to the number of people attending indoor events at the schools. • Participant and guest masks will be required.
<p>Outdoor Events</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no limit to the number of people attending outdoor events at the schools. • Participant and guest masks will be welcome, but not required. • Participants and guests who are not vaccinated will be encouraged to wear masks.
<p>Field Trips</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips will be approved by the building Principal and the Superintendent of Schools. Approval will be based on the ability to meet safety expectations of students and staff members involved.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Overnight Field Trips</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All overnight field trips must be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education.
<p style="text-align: center;">International Field Trips</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All international field trips must be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. For the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year, International field trips require an in-house review 1-month prior to travel.
<p style="text-align: center;">Travel Guidance Weekends/Vacations</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates and requirements for travel out of state are not currently in place in Connecticut. Staff, students, and families should follow travel-related guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH).
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Tracing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal Contact Tracing protocols will no longer be utilized. The district will focus their effort on the early identification and treatment of staff and/or students who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families, staff, and the community will receive updates via email, website, and social media during the school year directly from the Superintendent of Schools regarding the most up to date policies and protocols related to all considerations and aspects of this plan and future COVID-19 planning. A district-wide alert to all staff and families will be sent directly from the Superintendent if there is any confirmed positive COVID-19 case in students or staff regardless of where exposure occurred. The district will continue to report all positive cases of COVID-19 to the Uncas Health District and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Changes to planning, changes in the status of the schools' schedules, and any school closures will be communicated directly from the Superintendent to the school community.

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