

## Lebanon Public Schools

# Continuity of Services Plan

## Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2023

Updates-August 10, 2022

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



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### LAUNCHING INTO HEALTHY LEARNING – Fall 2022 Respiratory Disease Prevention Strategies for School, Child Care, and Camps: Continuing forward to support in-person learning and child care

(from the Department of Public Health and Connecticut State Department of Education).

*Minimize impacts from respiratory disease outbreaks and maximize successful in-person learning and child care during the coming school year by thoughtfully employing familiar mitigation strategies*

As we continue last school year's transition away from executive orders to local decision-making regarding COVID-19 response, it is important for schools, child care programs, and youth camps to keep in mind the tools and resources for respiratory disease prevention that remain available to them. As part of this local decision-making process, schools, child care programs and camps are reminded to continue to work collaboratively with their local health departments and members of their communities, including staff and families, to determine which of the various prevention strategies are most appropriate to implement within their facilities. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) offers the following guidance to assist in local decision-making, in the context of local conditions, to balance respiratory disease prevention measures with maximizing in-person participation opportunities for children.

**START HEALTHY** with vaccination. Vaccinations are the first and most important line of defense in preventing respiratory diseases like COVID-19 and influenza from disrupting the continuous operation of schools, child care programs, and youth camps. The effectiveness of any other respiratory disease prevention strategy at a school, child care program or youth camp is likely to be dependent on the underlying level of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination in staff and children. Everyone 6 months of age or older can receive both COVID-19 vaccine and a seasonal vaccine for influenza. Many school aged children are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose right now, and it is likely that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will recommend that all eligible school aged children should receive a COVID-19 booster dose before winter. Schools, child care programs, and youth camps should encourage all children and staff to get up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations prior to the start of the school year and should encourage the same for seasonal influenza vaccines when they become available this fall. Hosting on-site vaccination clinics is a great way to encourage vaccination and show your support to the children and families you serve. DPH can assist facility administrators with organizing these events and local health departments can be a great resource as well.

**MAXIMIZE IN-PERSON LEARNING** with symptom awareness and at-home testing. It is clear that in-person attendance provides the greatest benefit to children for both social/emotional/physical wellbeing and academic achievement. CDC recommends that people with symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, and gastrointestinal infections should stay home and get tested for COVID-19, and DPH supports this

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recommendation. However, DPH also recognizes the severe impact this prevention strategy can have on in-person learning opportunities, student achievement, attendance, and engagement for some children and communities. This is especially true during fall and spring allergy seasons and the winter months when mild respiratory symptoms seem to be almost constant. CDC continues to advise that children and staff should not report in-person to school, child care, or camp if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of a negative test result. While DPH supports CDC's guidance, we also support an alternative approach for those administrators who feel that it may benefit their students and staff by providing more in-person learning opportunities. DPH advises that children and staff with mild respiratory disease symptoms (infrequent cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, etc.), no fever, and no known COVID-19 case in their household should self-test at home for COVID-19 prior to leaving for school, child care, or camp every day they have symptoms and can be allowed to attend in-person if their test result is negative and they feel well enough to participate. Anyone with a fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) or who feels feverish should not report in-person until their fever has resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of medication and should test for COVID-19. COVID-19 self-tests kits will be made available to all school districts, child care providers, and operating youth camps (see DPH/CSDE/OEC's Launching into Healthy Learning: Operational Strategies – Fall 2022 information). Families can also order self-test kits by visiting [COVID.gov/tests](https://www.cdc.gov/tests). Children and staff choosing to report in person with mild symptoms should be strongly encouraged to wear a well-fitting mask indoors. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 should complete isolation according to the CDC Q/I Calculator.

**USE AVAILABLE PREVENTION TOOLS** based on conditions in your area. School districts, child care programs, and youth camps are still required to report COVID-19 cases using systems put in place by DPH and OEC, and DPH encourages continued sharing of general information about COVID-19 cases in your facilities with families. However, DPH recommends that school, child care, and camp administrators rely on the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels to determine when to consider applying enhanced measures for the prevention of respiratory viral diseases (e.g., COVID-19, influenza). Facilities located in counties with Low community levels can focus on maximizing in-person learning days and rely on routine everyday strategies to provide healthy learning environments. If their county moves to the Medium level, administrators can consider whether implementing some additional prevention strategies could be beneficial in mitigating any impact that increased COVID-19 cases in their community may have on in-person learning. Facilities located in counties with a High COVID-19 Community Level can consider whether implementing even more advanced mitigation strategies could be beneficial, including such things as universal masking and contact tracing, to prevent further surges or outbreaks at their facilities. Administrators who may be experiencing case clusters or outbreaks at a facility should contact DPH and their local health department.





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### Ensuring Safe In-Person Instruction

	Lebanon Public Schools 2022-23
<b>Masks</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks will be welcomed but not required.</li> <li>Mask requirements may be adjusted as guidance allows.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID Vaccinations</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and student vaccinations and boosters will be encouraged, but not required.</li> <li>Vaccination clinics may be offered outside of school hours for staff, students and community members</li> </ul>
<b>Volunteers &amp; Guests</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers and guests are welcome to wear masks while in the school buildings or at school functions.</li> <li>Volunteers, guests, visitors, and parents may have limited access to buildings during the school day.</li> </ul>
<b>Board of Education Policy</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Model</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students will attend school five days per week in-person.</li> </ul>
<b>Remote Learning</b> 	<p>Effective January 3, 2022 remote learning will be considered an official school day in the following limited circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>2) in rare and individualized circumstances, for students with live-in family members who have documented an unusual vulnerability to COVID-19;</li> </ol>


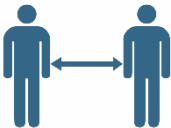
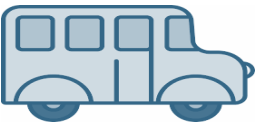




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	<p>3) in those rare cases in which a Planning and Placement Team determines that instruction in the home provides the student with a free appropriate public education the least restrictive environment and revises the student's Individualized Education Program accordingly; or</p> <p>4) should there be an order issued at some point during the 2022-2023 school year that requires school or district closures pursuant to emergency declaration.</p> <p>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><b>Homeschooling</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Google Meet Model</b></p> 	<p>The Google Meet model will not be available to absent students during the school day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students who are;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction.</li> <li>b. COVID-19 positive confirmed by testing will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction.</li> <li>c. awaiting results from COVID-19 testing will participate in <u>asynchronous</u> instruction.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Illness &amp; Quarantine</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff and students should stay home if they are feeling sick</li> <li>Staff and students must stay home if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</li> <li>Staff and students who are COVID positive must;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Isolate for 5 days</li> <li>b. End isolation after 5 days if you are fever free for 24-hours and are asymptomatic</li> <li>c. Wear mask until 10th day after positive test</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Morning Health Screening</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are encouraged to screen students before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below <b>100.0 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.</li> </ul>

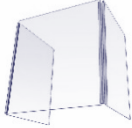



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<p><b>COVID Testing</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing is encouraged for students and staff if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Distancing</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on community levels of transmission building practices and protocols may be put in place to allow for staff and students 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).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bus Transportation</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks are welcome but not required on bus</li> <li>• As a result of a court order, effective immediately and as of April 18, 2022, CDC's January 29, 2021 <a href="#">Order</a> requiring masks on public transportation conveyances and at transportation hubs <b>is no longer</b> in effect. Therefore, CDC will not enforce the Order. CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time.</li> <li>• Mask requirements will be adjusted as guidance allows.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gloves &amp; PPE</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will have full access to protective equipment, face shields, and masks that are requested or required for job performance.</li> <li>• Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who wish to use them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hand Sanitizer</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitizer stations and bottles will be available in all schools.</li> <li>• Students may bring hand sanitizer to school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hand Washing</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be reminded to practice good hand washing habits and wash hands for 20 seconds, following CDC guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Desk Wipes</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools will continue to provide wipes for desks, tables, chairs, and classroom items that are shared during the school day.</li> </ul>





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<b>Desk Shields</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Teachers will be free to use desk shields for certain activities or for certain individuals, if desired.</li> </ul>
<b>Entrances &amp; Hallways</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and students will be allowed two-way traffic patterns at entrances and in hallways.</li> <li>• Student groupings will be allowed to be in the hallways simultaneously.</li> </ul>
<b>Lockers</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will have regular access to lockers based on guidelines from the school administration.</li> <li>• Students at the Lebanon Elementary School will have regular access to the cubby area of the classroom based on guidelines from the school administration.</li> </ul>
<b>Cafeteria</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student will enjoy their lunch experience in the cafeteria</li> <li>• If needed due to community transmission rates rotations may be created for students to eat lunch in the cafeteria at different times and in order to follow social distance recommendations.</li> <li>• All breakfasts and lunches will be provided to students at no cost.</li> <li>• Homeschool families may access breakfast and lunches at no cost for students under the age of 18.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Cohorts in Grades K-8</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorting classrooms during meals, recess and other gathering times will only be considered if community transmission rates are high</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Classes</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers/staff will be free to utilize the outdoor space for classes and activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mental &amp; Emotional Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools will plan for SEL that is integrated into academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections.</li> <li>Grades PreK-4 will continue with the <i>Second Step</i> curriculum.</li> <li>Grade 5-12 will utilize the Choose Love program.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Music Performing Groups</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Art/PE/ Music Shared Equipment</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment may be shared among students as appropriate and based on the nature of the equipment will be wiped down between uses.</li> <li>Students will be encouraged to sanitize hands after using shared equipment.</li> <li>TECH Ed/ASTE will wipe down their own equipment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recess</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student masks will be welcome outdoors, but not required.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Equipment may be shared among students as appropriate and based on the nature of the equipment.</li> <li>Students will be encouraged to sanitize hands after recess.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Athletics</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Middle School and High School will continue to follow CIAC guidance for fall, winter, and spring sports.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Locker Rooms</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will have access to locker rooms before and after athletic practices and contests.</li> <li>As needed, students will have access to locker rooms during PE activities.</li> </ul>

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<b>Clubs &amp; Activities</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All after school, evening clubs and activities, and school sponsored events shall resume in full.</li> </ul>
<b>Concerts / Theater Events</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Participant and guest masks will be welcomed but not required.</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Events</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be no limit to the number of people attending outdoor events at the schools.</li> <li>Participant and guest masks will be welcome, but not required.</li> </ul>
<b>Field Trips</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Overnight Field Trips</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All overnight field trips must be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education.</li> </ul>
<b>International Field Trips</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All international field trips must be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education.</li> <li>For the 2022-23 school year, International field trips require an in-house review 1-month prior to travel.</li> </ul>
<b>Travel Guidance Weekends/Vacations</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandates and requirements for travel out of state are not currently in place in Connecticut.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>

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<p>Contact Tracing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal Contact Tracing protocols will no longer be utilized on a regular basis. The district will focus their effort on the early identification and treatment of staff and/or students who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.</li><li>• If community transmission rates are high contact tracing will be revisited.</li></ul>
<p>Communication</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• An alert to all staff and families of the impacted building, 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.</li><li>• The district will continue to report all positive cases of COVID-19 to the Connecticut Department of Public Health.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

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