



Office of the Superintendent
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October 26, 2021

Lebanon City Schools Caregivers,

Earlier this week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced a new quarantine option - [Mask to Stay, Test to Play](#) – for students exposed to COVID-19 at school. The new state guidelines will enable the district to keep healthy students learning in school and participating in extracurricular activities. As a result of this new guidance, testing protocols associated with our pilot program will no longer be required for students to return to school. Parents can request for their child to be tested by the District if you would like to have that additional piece of information, but it is no longer required.

Lebanon Schools have been a part of the Test & Stay Pilot program with the Ohio Department of Health for the past four weeks. According to Governor DeWine statements, data from the pilot was a driving force behind this statewide change. Data collected in Warren County demonstrated that less than 3% of students with direct contact to COVID-19 in a school setting contracted the virus. As a district we have continued to advocate for our students and families and these recent statewide changes were a direct result of our advocacy work in Warren County. Countywide data collected through the pilot can be found at the bottom of this letter.

It is important to note that the new quarantine guidance option only applies to those students exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting. Students exposed to COVID-19 outside of school are required to follow standard quarantine guidelines. The Warren County Health District will continue to notify families, through the same Lebanon Schools processes we have used throughout this year, when a student is identified as a direct contact. Students who are a direct contact due to a school exposure have the choice to opt in to the Mask to Stay option or can choose the traditional at-home quarantine.

Mask to Stay

The Mask to Stay portion of this new guidance is similar to our pilot procedures but it removes the requirement for negative tests. Under this new guidance, students can continue with in-person learning after being directly exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting if they do the following:

- Wear a mask for 14 days after the initial exposure date
- Self-monitor or have a parent monitor for symptoms of COVID-19
 - Isolate and get tested if they show symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of the severity of symptoms
- Students may discontinue these procedures after seven days if they satisfy the following criteria: they remain symptom free, AND they test negative between days 5-7.
 - The district has the ability to test students, as we have done throughout the pilot, onsite and at no cost to our families. A parental consent form must be signed and on file with the district prior to any onsite testing.

Test to Play

Test to Play guidance contains the same testing requirements as our pilot program. This new guidance permits students to participate in extracurricular activities after being directly exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting if they do the following:

- Wear a mask while not actively participating: while on a team bus, in the locker room or while on the sidelines or bench
- Get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible after they are identified as a direct contact to someone with the virus in school. This must be done before they can return to their activity to participate.
 - The district has the ability to test students, as we have done throughout the pilot, onsite and at no cost to our families. A parental consent form must be signed and on file with the district prior to any onsite testing.
- A second test is required to be conducted on days five to seven after the last day of exposure
- Students may discontinue these procedures after seven days if they satisfy the following criteria: they remain symptom free, AND they test negative between days 5-7.

About the Pilot

Ten Warren County school districts participated in the Test & Stay pilot program with the Warren County Combined Health District and with assistance from the Ohio Department of Health. Participating districts included Carlisle Local Schools, Clinton-Massie Local Schools, Franklin City Schools, Kings Local Schools, Lebanon City Schools, Little Miami, Mason City Schools, Monroe City Schools, Springboro Schools, Wayne Local Schools, the Warren County Career Center and the Warren County Educational Service Center. During the pilot:

- 790 Warren County students were identified as direct contacts at school
- 457 Warren County students participated in the program
- 335 Warren County students completed the 7-day program with negative tests and no symptoms
- 106 Warren County students are still in the program
- 12 Warren County students had a positive test result after the first test (2.63% of program participants)
- 4 Warren County students had a positive test result after the second test (0.88% of program participants)
- 3,370 days of in-person learning were saved

We are thrilled with the results of the Ohio Test & Stay Pilot Program and the impact it has had on the students in Lebanon. Your advocacy to our board and administration, and the work of all schools in Warren County has yielded a product that is now being implemented across Ohio. We are proud to be on the forefront of this process and we will continue to advocate for our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,



Isaac W. Seevers
Superintendent