



Office of the Superintendent
160 Miller Road
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
513.934.5778

September 24, 2021

Greetings Lebanon Parents/Caregivers:

We are happy to announce that Lebanon City Schools will be entering into the Ohio Department of Health's Ohio Test and Stay Pilot program on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The Ohio Test & Stay Pilot program is an alternative to traditional quarantine and is being conducted in conjunction with the Warren County Combined Health District and 10 school districts in Warren, Butler and Clinton counties. It provides an alternative to at-home quarantine for students who are direct contacts of a positive case. This pilot uses mask wearing and frequent testing to keep healthy students in school and keep sick students at home.

The goal of the program is to keep K-12 students in school, in-person five days a week. We believe that in-person learning is very important for children's academic and social-emotional development. When school districts follow layered prevention strategies including recommending vaccination for staff and eligible students, masks, and social distancing, it helps slow the spread of the virus and allows students to stay in school.

Asymptomatic direct contacts will be permitted to remain in school if they receive two negative rapid antigen tests and wear a face mask while inside school during their quarantine period. We are fortunate to be able to offer this program and in order to maintain efficacy we must follow the criteria below:

1. Parents must sign the consent agreement and agree to only use the tests provided in the pilot. No tests from outside providers or primary care physicians will be permitted.
2. Any student participating in the pilot must wear a multi-layer surgical style mask for the entire 7-day period. If you have a student who cannot wear a mask for any reason they will not be eligible for the pilot. Additionally, if your student has a mask exemption, they will not be eligible for the pilot unless the mask exemption is rescinded.
3. While in the pilot, "quarantined" students are **not eligible** to participate in athletics or extracurriculars as they are still considered under "quarantine."
4. Currently, the pilot only applies to **students who are direct contacts due to exposure at school**, NOT through a community exposure, school-sponsored activity exposure, or from home.

Families whose student has been identified as a direct contact will have the option to participate in the pilot to stay in school, or they may choose the traditional at home quarantine. As a part of the pilot, parents have the option to have their child tested at school or test at home. However, to test at home, parents will need to log in to a website to start the testing process under the guidance of a telehealth provider/proctor. If a student becomes ill during the pilot, they will no longer participate in the program and will default to home isolation/quarantine.

Lebanon City Schools has hired a contact tracing nurse, Katja Pursell, through the generosity of the Warren County Commissioners. Our COVID nurses or contact tracers can be reached at 513-934-5889. Ms. Pursell will be working closely with our COVID Contact Tracers. You can use the following email addresses to contact these individuals: Katja Pursell pursell.katja@lebanonschools.org, Jamie Buchert buchert.jamie@lebanonschools.org, or Elizabeth Pennix pennix.elizabeth@lebanonschools.org. Parents can continue to contact our contact tracers by phone, email, or by submitting positive case information using our [Covid Reporting Form](#).

Please take some time to make yourself familiar with the documents below that outline the standard operating procedures, parent consent, and press release related to the pilot program.

[Warren County Quarantine Pilot Standard Operating Procedures](#)

[Warren County Quarantine Pilot Program Parent Consent Form](#)

[Warren County Quarantine Pilot Press Release](#)

We feel privileged to be a part of this pilot program that will provide data that can potentially help update or revise quarantine guidance for K-12 schools not only for Ohio but for schools across the nation.

Thank you for considering this pilot and your continued support of the Lebanon City School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac W. SeEVERS". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Isaac W. SeEVERS
Superintendent