



August 27, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine and Dr. Vanderhoff,

Thank you for listening to school district superintendents this week. We are working around the clock to keep our schools open and our communities connected. The division and distrust that we are experiencing this year is at an all-time high. If we are going to keep our students safe, our schools open, and our communities from dividing any further, we NEED to improve our strategy for living life with COVID-19.

Dr. Vanderhoff said it on the call this week and we have all realized this for some time -- COVID-19 is not going away. It is evolving. We need to do the same. The Warren County superintendents, with the support of the Warren County Health District and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, led the way last year by creatively finding a way to keep our schools open ALL year. We have the will and the collaborative spirit to lead our state once again into a new phase of not only keeping schools safe and open, but also learning to live with the realities of COVID-19.

In collaboration with the Warren County Health District, we are proposing the following pilot as the next phase of how we learn to live with COVID-19.

Problem:

We are continuing to quarantine healthy students at home. This is a serious concern for the following reasons:

- **the mental health of our students.** Quarantine is socially isolating healthy kids who need to be connected to their learning community now more than ever.
- **disruption to the integrity of our education system.** Our teachers cannot possibly provide high quality learning experiences to an ever-changing group of students quarantined at home with inequitable access to technology and internet connectivity.
- **distrust and anger in our community.** Our families are tired of seeing healthy children sent home because of a one size fits all quarantine rule that we do not use with any other virus.
- **economic impact on our families and local businesses community.** When students are sent home, it impacts the absenteeism, incomes, and productivity of our students' caregivers. They need stability.

Solution:

10 Warren County school districts pilot a multi-tiered modified quarantine strategy to address the concerns listed above.

- When an unvaccinated student who is not wearing a mask is identified as a close contact, the following options are presented to our families:
 - **traditional quarantine** - 10 days at home or return to schools on day 7 with proof of a negative test result on day 5, 6 or 7
 - **mandatory mask quarantine** - if the student is symptom free, he/she is allowed to return to school wearing a mask for 10 days
 - **modified mask and testing quarantine** - if the student is symptom free, they are allowed to return to school wearing a mask. On day 5, they will have the option to take a rapid test at school. If the test results are negative, they will continue to follow the current mask status for their specific school and grade level.

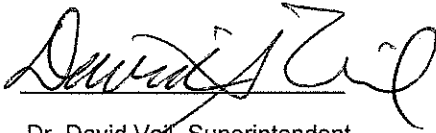
This proposed pilot solution will reestablish confidence in our communities. It will demonstrate that our schools continue to work creatively to keep students safe and in school. It provides stability for our students, staff, families, and communities. We will continue to monitor our data as we did last year, and we are glad to work with a research team as well. We are also open to other suggestions. The main goal of this proposal is to help Ohioans and Warren County families as school districts adapt to the new reality which requires all of us to learn to live with COVID-19.

Respectfully,

Warren County Area
 School District Superintendents
(see signature page)

Quarantine Pilot Letter
Governor Mike DeWine
August 27, 2021

Signature page:



Dr. David Vail, Superintendent
Carlisle Local S.D.



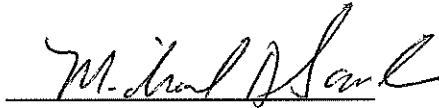
Greg Sears, Superintendent
Kings Local S.D.



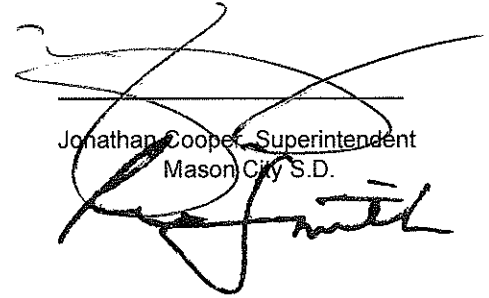
Isaac Seevers, Superintendent
Lebanon City S.D.



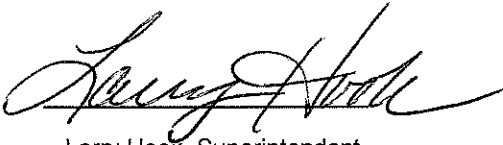
Greg Power, Superintendent
Little Miami Local S.D.



Dr. Mike Sander, Superintendent
Franklin City S.D.



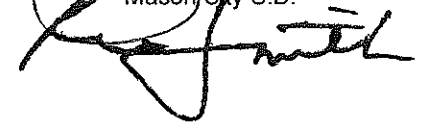
Jonathan Cooper, Superintendent
Mason City S.D.



Larry Hook, Superintendent
Springboro Community S.D.



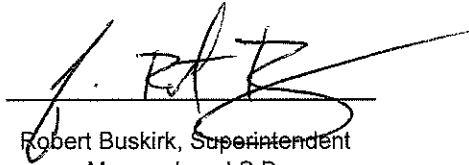
Pat Dubbs, Superintendent
Wayne Local S.D.



Rick Smith, Superintendent
Warren County Career Center



Matt Baker, Superintendent
Clinton Massie Local S.D.



Robert Buskirk, Superintendent
Monroe Local S.D.



Tom Isaacs, Superintendent
Warren County E.S.C.



Walt Davis
State Board of Education