

March 13, 2020

Dear Lebanon Parents, Staff and Community:

There is no higher priority for our entire Lebanon School District family than the safety of our students, staff and community. With cases of COVID-19 in our state, many of our families have questions regarding the virus and the impact on our school community. We want to assure you that we are in close communication with local and state officials and internal teams, as well as continuing to monitor the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MoDHSS) in order to stay on top of this evolving situation.

At this time, the Laclede County Health Department, in coordination with MoDHSS and the CDC, advises that we continue to hold school in the Lebanon School District. Following Health Department and CDC guidance, we will make case-by-case decisions on large gatherings based on the size of group and necessity of the event.

Laclede County Health Department Administrator Charla Baker emphasized "...the importance of taking every precaution to eliminate the spread of illness, especially throughout our school systems. There is no known immediate threat or reason to mandate school closures at this time..."

As of Friday, March 13, we have no plans for school closure.

- In collaboration with the Laclede County Health Department, there are no current plans to close Lebanon Schools.
- Any future direction regarding school closure would come from the Laclede County Health Department, based on guidance from the CDC. That assessment would be made based on illness levels in the community or among students and staff in the District.
- Many factors guide the decision regarding school closure, including the following:
  - Our top priority is the health and well-being of students, staff and the community.
  - Many of our students depend on Lebanon Schools to provide quality meals that are essential for their daily nutrition, as well as a safe and secure learning environment.
  - A rapid, widespread need for childcare would have immediate implications for our community and employers.
  - Consistent instruction is very important for our students' learning.

We want to assure you we are monitoring this developing situation closely, staying in regular contact with public health leadership. We have created a page [on the District website](#) that we will continue to update with information, statements and FAQs. We will continue to adjust our operations according to the guidance of health authorities as the situation develops.