



WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

416 South East Street – Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Duane Stansbury, R.S., M.P.H.
HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Scott R. Swope, D.O.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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WCCHD Recommendations for Schools and Businesses

The Warren County Health District (WCHD) continues to strongly recommend COVID vaccination for individuals that are eligible. Vaccination is the most important public health action to end the COVID-19 pandemic. WCHD also recommends following the CDC guidance recommending everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent spread of Delta and protect others.

Ohio Senate Bill 22 passed by the 134th General Assembly and went into effect on June 23, 2021 prevents a local board of health (local health district) from issuing broad orders that impact specific groups of people, schools or businesses.

The act specifies that a local board of health may only issue a quarantine and isolation order that applies to individuals who have been medically diagnosed with or have come into direct contact with someone who has been medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order.

The act eliminates the authority of a local board of health to generally close schools and prohibit public gatherings during an epidemic or threatened epidemic. Instead, it permits a local board of health to close a specific school building for a period of time necessary to bring the building into sanitary condition. A local board of health may take this action against a specific school building when a dangerous communicable disease is unusually prevalent and a verified positive case of the disease is documented in the specific school building.

In addition to the requirements regarding quarantine and isolation orders issued by a local board of health, the act specifies that a local board of health may issue orders or regulations that apply only to specific individuals or businesses. Any order that applies to a class of persons in violation of this provision is invalid and has no legal effect. Specifically, the act provides that any order or regulation issued by a local board of health for the prevention or restriction of disease may only apply to individuals and businesses that:

- (1) have been medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order or regulation,
- (2) have come in direct contact with someone who has been medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order or regulation, or
- (3) have a documented incident in the building of the disease that is the subject of the order or regulation.

If you have additional questions, please call or email us.