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Empowering educators to ensure quality public education for all students

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

**Lincoln Education Association Statement
Regarding LPS Plan for “Red” Risk Dial Status**

October 21, 2020—The Board of Directors of the Lincoln Education Association, which represents approximately 2,300 certificated staff in Lincoln Public Schools, has taken a formal position regarding the Lincoln Public Schools plan should the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department’s Risk Dial move to Red (Severe Risk of COVID spread).

It is the position of the LEA Board of Directors that Lincoln Public Schools should adhere to its original plan for the health and safety of students, families, staff, and the community by shifting to 100% remote teaching and learning if the community risk dial indicates a Severe Risk.

The pandemic is far from being under control in our city and county, and with around 50,000 citizens of our community (students and staff) being a part of Lincoln Public Schools, we all have a critical role in community-wide efforts to defeat the pandemic. The health and safety of students, families, and staff members must be further protected as the risk goes ever higher for active spread of COVID-19. As professional educators, we want to be in school and we want students to be in school—but when a community faces severe risk of contracting COVID-19, we must also teach by example and shift to a safer environment for our students, their families, and our colleagues.

A not-insignificant number of parents and LPS staff made decisions about the return to school based on the assurances under the original LPS plan to transition to 100% remote learning should the conditions in the community rise to a severe risk level. Any move away from that plan represents a fundamental shift that has potentially serious health and safety consequences, and could prolong the presence of COVID-19 in our entire community.

For more information, contact LEA President Rita Bennett at rita.bennett@nsea.org or at 402-489-7500.