



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent

9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100
Fax (810) 626-2101

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Dear Parents:

The school year is starting, and the district is preparing to the best of our ability. There is little doubt that this year starts with much anxiety over so many issues such as wearing a cloth mask that covers the mouth and nose, keeping our buildings clean, maintaining social distancing to the best of our ability, delaying the start of school, etc. These issues have been addressed in our back-to-school plan and will require cooperation, flexibility, and patience from all of us.

As you prepare for the new year, please remember that students selecting the option to attend school must wear a cloth face mask that covers the mouth and nose. This expectation is not debatable and must be the norm until the Governor moves us to Phase 6. While we will work through each medical concern presented to the building principal on a case by case basis, the default is that the mask will be worn until otherwise determined. Please understand that the medical documentation will be reviewed and that the medical professional prescribing the medical note must be appropriately authorized to address the medical condition.

It is essential that everyone understands that the Phase 4 plan provides an option for remote or in-person instruction. This means that if you are absolutely opposed to your child wearing a face mask or your child refuses to utilize the face mask in the appropriate manner, the remote option is available. A failure to comply will result in the remote option becoming the default instructional delivery for students. I have made it clear to the building principals that they are not to debate this issue as we are working through a public health emergency while trying to hold in-class instruction. While you may not agree with this approach, I am asking each of you to respect it for the safety and good of all students and staff doing their best to make this work for our community.

Currently, you may have heard rumors of positive COVID cases in Hartland. This is not a rumor. Last week, I forwarded a letter (<http://www.hartlandschools.us/documents/Health%20and%20Safety/COVID-19/Letter%20to%20Parents.pdf>) from Dr. Juan Marguez, MD, Medical Director of the Livingston County Health Department reminding all of us what we can do to mitigate the spread of this virus. Some people have asked about the process being used by the district when we become aware that someone in school has tested positive.

1. **Positive Case:** The district will notify the LCHD that it has been reported to us that an individual has tested positive or the LCHD will notify the district. It is important that parents notify the school immediately if their child has a positive on a “rapid test” as sometimes these take a day or two to get to the health department. The LCHD will confirm the positive and work with that individual to contact trace. Individuals who may fall into the contact bubble will be contacted by the LCHD or TRACE FORCE (you might see Michigan COVID Help on your caller ID) and given instructions on how long they must quarantine themselves. Follow-up calls will be made to check your status until the end of the quarantine period.

2. **Close Contact:** If an individual is determined by the LCHD or TRACE FORCE to be a close contact, they will be instructed to quarantine for 14 Days due to the incubation period for COVID. The designation will be made by phone or letter with a date in which the individual may return to normal activities. It is essential that individuals follow the quarantine rules and not attend school in-person during the time frame. We ask that parents let the office staff at each building in which the student attends know of the quarantine situation so that we can keep track of this. The LCHD and TRACE FORCE do not automatically forward this information as the school district and school building attended are not necessarily always available.

People have asked what the difference between isolation and quarantine are:

Isolation = The individual is confirmed positive and must isolate themselves for 10 days starting from the date of symptoms, or the positive test if not symptomatic when receiving the test.

Quarantine = The individual must stay home in quarantine for 14 days due to the incubation period of the virus which is 2-14 days.

As your Superintendent, I am confident that we can open schools. I have continued to say that there is no guarantee that we will not have to go backwards to move forward. I ask parents to understand that things can change quickly, and that plans should be in the works for all scenarios in which students may be asked to learn. We could find ourselves moving toward Phase 5 or 6, but also toward Phase 3 where all learning is done remotely.

Thank you for understanding that we are not operating like the fall of 2019 and March 1, 2020. The road ahead is clearly dependent on each of us doing the best to make in-person schooling a priority which means understanding how you can support this effort outside of school. I wish all of you the best as we begin the new year.

Respectfully,



Chuck Hughes