



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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Dear HCS Education Community:

Since my last update on August 25, 2021, the data shows:

Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 10.2% (11.6% last week)

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 58.7

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 411

Elementary Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: CE = 31, LE = 76, RE = 72, VE = 27

Grade 5-8 Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: FIS = 53 and MS = 11

High School / Alternative Education Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: HS = 76

Hospitalization Rates: Liv. County 10.08 per 100 Beds

Currently, the county is seeing about 411 cases per week. The State of Michigan is showing an 8.9% positivity rate, 2,197 daily cases, and roughly 15,381 positive COVID cases per week. In the past week, I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (2), Lakes Elementary (1), Round Elementary (4), Village Elementary (3), Farms Intermediate (8), Middle School (2), Hartland High School (4) and District-wide staff (1).

Note: Data taken from the <https://www.mistartmap.info/> website

The start of the school year has certainly been challenging for everyone. I can tell you that I have listened and responded to many people over the past year and a half, especially in the past month. I apologize that I find it increasingly difficult to read and respond to everyone all the time while trying to take care of my responsibilities of moving the district forward.

The district is and will continue to follow all mandates that have been implemented regarding masking and the quarantine process. We continue to highly recommend masking when indoors based on the same recommendation being shared by the CDC, MDHHS, and LCHD.

Help Each Other:

Each of your building principals has been sending information to parents. This week they have sent videos to ask each family to help us keep school safe by keeping children home if someone in the family is sick, if someone in the family is being tested for COVID if someone in the family has tested positive, or if the child is experiencing symptoms such as being overly tired, stomach ache, sniffles, cough, runny nose, fever, headache, body aches, etc. Often when dealing with students who test positive in school, parents report, "I thought it was just allergies." Please help each other keep children in school learning. When children come to school sick and are COVID positive it, requires us to quarantine students which is not something we want to do. The fact is that most of our positive cases, resulting in the quarantine of students, is due to students being exposed to COVID at home and then coming to school. We simply need everyone to be vigilant and do the right thing daily.

Teachers have been asked to assess children in the first few minutes of class time and send any children to the office that exhibits symptoms. Children will be sent home and are to remain home until at least 24 hours symptom free. In this case we would ask that you work with your family physician to see if testing for COVID is appropriate. **KEY: Students must stay home until at least 24 hours symptom-free.**

Masking:

If you expect your child to wear a mask during the school day, please feel free to contact the teacher so that the teacher can gently remind students that mom and dad expect them to wear a mask. Teachers will handle this in a professional, graceful, and dignified manner for the sake of the child. Often it is just a whisper or a hand signal that they develop to remind the child.

Quarantine Questions:

If the district was universally masking, we would not have to quarantine, right?

This is not correct. Universal masking would simply move the 6-foot contact zone to a 3-foot contact tracing zone. Elementary classroom would still require quarantine for the entire classroom as elementary children play together, sit at the carpet together, do small group instruction together, etc. This makes it impossible to determine which students were not contacts for 15 minutes throughout the entire day. This rule would help the secondary quarantine process as we could only be looking at 3 feet versus 6 feet for contact tracing.

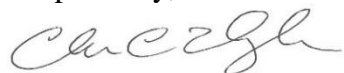
Mr. Hughes shared a potential alternative to standard home quarantine, where is this today?

An alternative to out-of-school standard quarantine is just about ready to start. I will be providing information about this process on Friday, September 3, 2021, via an email. The LCHD intends to start offering this option September 7, 2021 for all new quarantines. Unfortunately, it will not be available to any student quarantined prior to September 7, 2021. Again, this option is for students to stay in school during the quarantine period if they choose to wear a mask and engage in daily testing in collaboration with the LCHD. It does not allow students to participate in extracurricular activities or outside of school activities during the 10-day quarantine period, as these activities are considered higher risk than classroom and bus environments. It will also not be available to adults, as adults who are positive are high frequency spreaders of COVID. I must reiterate, the program will only provide the opportunity to continue attending school during the quarantine period if the individual wears a mask and does daily testing. The failure to follow these expectations will result in the child being moved to the standard quarantine, or 10-days at home. Parents and students can decline this option and participate in the Standard 10-day out-of-school quarantine.

Reminder: Individuals who are vaccinated are not expected to quarantine if identified as a contact to a positive COVID case during the contact tracing process.

Please know that we remain vigilant about COVID matters and are concerned for everyone's safety at school.

Respectfully,



Chuck Hughes