



# 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 HCS Education Community:

## **Preschool to Grade 6 Pilot Program**

Over the past few months, our strong partnership with the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) has allowed us to take additional steps to help keep more students in school. During November, we conducted a pilot program that allowed healthy, asymptomatic students in grades seventh through twelfth, who were identified as close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case, to remain in school, so long as they remained healthy, were not a close contact outside of the school setting, and were not part of an identified outbreak or cluster of COVID cases. The county superintendents proposed this pilot, and the LCHD approved it. During the pilot, we did not experience an increase in the spread of COVID-19 in our schools within these groups. With this data and the availability of the COVID-19 vaccination for all school-aged children, LCHD has approved an expansion of this pilot to include students in preschool through sixth grade. This will begin when we return from our holiday break on January 3, 2022.

Much like the the pilot conducted in November, under this new pilot program, healthy, asymptomatic students in preschool through sixth grade, will not be excluded from school under the following conditions:

- The student is not currently in isolation after testing positive for COVID.
- The student is not currently in quarantine for an exposure to COVID outside of the school setting.
- The student's exposure to COVID was not related to an identified cluster or outbreak within the classroom. "Cluster" means three or more students, teachers, school employees, or workers who have been infected with COVID in the same classroom over a 14-day period.

We will continue to contact trace and notify families if their child has been identified as a close contact. Students identified as a close contact may quarantine if the family chooses to do so. For those opting to continue to attend school, the LCHD recommends that the students:

- Wear a mask while attending school.
- Monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if showing any signs of illness.
- Are tested for COVID-19 three to five days after exposure. This is considered surveillance testing, which helps monitor the spread of COVID-19 and does not require that a student stay home with the test results pending unless they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

LCHD strongly recommends that all eligible students and community members receive a COVID-19 vaccination. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is approved for children ages five and up, and both the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are approved for ages 18 and up. Students who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine or be excluded from school.

## **School Safety Update:**

I have outlined our **Emergency Operations Procedures for HCS** below. Please take the time to read this document as it should answer many questions you may have.

## Emergency Operations Procedures HCS

### History:

In 2014-15 the district joined the Livingston County Safety Committee. This team of law enforcement and school personnel reviewed our safety protocols at the time and other protocols including ALICE to determine what the school protocols should be. What they liked about ALICE was the following:

**Alert:** Not only do we all have to be alert to our environment, but we also must be prepared to act. In Hartland, any staff member has the right to call a lockdown if they see or hear something that is not normal, and they fear for the safety of the school. We encourage staff to keep their eyes and ears open and everyone to follow the “See Something, Hear Something, Say Something” practice. (Hartland embraces this component).

**Lockdown:** In Livingston County we identify this as **Lock Out and Hide Out**. Getting to a safe space and hiding with a barricade if necessary. Teachers are asked to share with students their thoughts on where they could hide and discuss how the room might be barricaded if there is a danger with no way to get out of the space. (Hartland embraces this component)

**Inform:** This component relies on people keeping others informed about an intruder. If the building has cameras and it is safe to do so, someone can follow the situation and use the PA to inform everyone where the threat is located. Some schools will use messaging applications if possible. (Hartland embraces this and will do so if possible)

**Counter:** Provide distractions and actions that would throw a shooter off long enough to potentially escape. This could be throwing calculators, staplers, etc. or running in a zigzag motion to not provide an easy target. The training does not ask people to confront nor does the HCS protocol, as we do not believe it is in the best interest of students and staff. (Hartland does not embrace this component)

**Evacuate:** Alice shares strategies for **Getting Out** which is found in the current HCS protocols, if the staff member evaluates and finds it safe to do so. (Hartland embraces this component)

The district understands why so many people and staff feel the need for ALICE specific training as it is a structured approach which may help everyone better understand the process for addressing a tragic situation.

The Oxford situation has created many conversations around school safety and the District’s safety protocols. The Livingston County Safety Committee met on 12-7-2021 and will again meet prior to the Holiday Break to assess our current safety protocols to determine where they can be strengthened. We will look closely at Active Shooter Training for Schools, Workplaces and other Communities or ALICE training. Mr. Scott VanEpps, Mr. Matt Marino, and Mr. Mike Capra will be our representatives and make recommendations to the district for changes if necessary. Mr. VanEpps will solicit volunteers from our employee groups to help in planning future training. It may include plans to bring experts to our staff to share their guidance on preparedness if this is what we need. We will also be evaluating the ALICE active shooter/intruder training program and other school safety training platforms.

Since 11-30-2021 every building has revisited our current protocols, conversations with staff regarding how to implement these protocols have occurred and our teachers were asked to work with students on what this looks like if we must act, hide, barricade, or run. A meeting with all of our building administrators and department heads took place on 12-6-2021 to review current protocols and to create an updated plan on drills etc. When developing our plans, we purposely did not add “Counter” to our protocols because of the

concern for an increased risk of harm and felt that we were safer stressing **Lock Down, Hide Out or Get Out**. We are reassessing our protocols and training in light of the events that unfolded so close to home.

## Livingston County Emergency Protocols

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Building	Rooms	
<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">FIRE</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EVACUATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull nearest fire alarm.</li> <li>• Turn lights off and close door.</li> <li>• Proceed to nearest available exit.</li> <li>• Use stairs, not elevators.</li> <li>• Assist persons with disabilities as needed.</li> <li>• Assist in being safely rally point away from building.</li> <li>• Stay in groups.</li> <li>• Account for individuals.</li> <li>• Do not re-enter area until directed by authorities.</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">ACTIVE SHOOTER</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lock Out, Hide Out, Get Out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lock out</b> – Find shelter and lock your door. If locked out of a safe place run away from the danger zone to a rally point or to emergency personnel.</li> <li>• <b>Hide out</b> – Barricade the room. Turn off lights, be quiet, and stay out of sight. Prepare to evacuate and protect yourself by any means necessary.</li> <li>• <b>Get out</b> – If at any time the situation warrants, evacuate to rally point or to emergency personnel.</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">SEVERE WEATHER</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEEK SHELTER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cope at desks, including main corridors.</li> <li>• Move to lowest interior space of building (hallway, basement, restroom) away from windows and glass.</li> <li>• Crouch, keep face or under heavy well supported objects and cover back of your head.</li> <li>• If outdoors move to sturdy building.</li> <li>• If time to go, move (if a building is full or nearest shelter is down) toward wind down the back of your head.</li> <li>• Listen for announcements or if after school hours number 93.5 WHM for updates.</li> </ul>
<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">SHELTER IN PLACE</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAY PUT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If outdoors move into the building and secure area.</li> <li>• Lock the doors (where A advised).</li> <li>• Stay in your room (no passing).</li> <li>• Wait for further instruction.</li> </ul>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Be Prepared</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">CALL 911</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Remain Calm</p> <p style="font-size: 1.1em; font-weight: bold;">Follow Emergency Personnel Directions</p>	
<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">POWER OUTAGE</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EVALUATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay where you are and wait for emergency lights.</li> <li>• Begin Shelter in Place procedures.</li> <li>• If people are trapped in an elevator, call school personnel for assistance - do not try to open elevator doors.</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EVACUATE &amp; ISOLATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alert people to evacuate the contaminated area.</li> <li>• Avoid breathing vapors from spill.</li> <li>• Alert school personnel.</li> <li>• If personally contaminated, avoid contact with others (Isolate), leave eye wash and/or showering station.</li> <li>• Do not operate any electrical devices, phones (including cellular), appliances, light switches, or equipment with open flames, wires, or outlets.</li> <li>• Do not enter area until directed by authorities.</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #f00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">NATURAL GAS LEAK</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAY CLEAR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuate the building to the designated rally point and await further instructions.</li> <li>• Do not operate any electrical devices, phones (including cellular), appliances, light switches, or equipment with open flames.</li> <li>• Do not try to locate source of gas leak.</li> <li>• Alert school personnel for assistance.</li> <li>• Do not enter area until directed by authorities.</li> </ul>

## ACTIVE SHOOTER

### Lock Out, Hide Out, Get Out

- **Lock out** – Find shelter and lock your door. If locked out of a safe place run away from the danger zone to a rally point or to emergency personnel.
- **Hide out** – Barricade the room. Turn off lights, be quiet, and stay out of sight. Prepare to evacuate and protect yourself by any means necessary.
- **Get out** – If at any time the situation warrants, evacuate to rally point or to emergency personnel.

As it stands today, our plan is in place and is approved by the Michigan State Police. Staff have had the opportunity to understand expectations and practice lock down procedures in their workspaces during the year. This requires staff to assess their learning environment for how they would hide, barricade or get out, if possible. The district will prioritize going through the protocols again at the start of the second semester.

Here are some additional activities regarding safety that the district has implemented:

- Created secure entrances (sally ports) at each school except the high school
- Installed limited access camera devices at each building entrance
- Employ a safety team to monitor the entrances at the high school
- Employ a School Safety Coordinator who is required to carry a gun, stationed at the high school in lieu of a Livingston County Deputy
- Continue to add updated camera technology to our facilities and adding cameras to schools and areas previously not covered (2020 Bond program)
- Invested in social workers and psychologists above and beyond what is provided by the LESA formula to ensure we have full time staff at our buildings
- Each building is expected to have a social emotional learning team in place to ensure we are providing education to students regarding social emotional health and wellness
- Invested in adding counselor positions at Farms and additional help at the Middle School and LEGACY
- Continue an intervention-based approach to student discipline along with threat assessment protocols and appropriate consequences

In the wake of the tragedy that played out at Oxford High School and the social media threats to harm schools in the following days, Hartland Schools remains committed to supporting our students and staff. We have counselors, social workers, psychologists, a Student Assistance Coordinator, and each other to help us to pull the pieces together. Please encourage students or your friends and neighbors to reach out to our school mental health experts if they feel help is needed for their student. I understand that some people were concerned that Hartland chose to have school on Thursday and Friday of last week. Keep in mind, many children need to be in a structured environment during traumatic times as we are their support network. Ask yourself, what else would they be doing if they were sitting at home with all that is going on, especially with all the social media concerns? Beyond our staff and students, we have asked that our community remain vigilant in subscribing to “See Something, Hear Something, Say Something” as a key safety strategy for our schools. If you are not comfortable reporting concerns to our staff, you can reach out to local law enforcement or use the OK2SAY platform (see below). We will get the information and immediately assess the situation with our law enforcement partners. Please continue to watch for signs of students distress and report them to our professional staff who are ready to support those in need.



It is my hope that this information, and the thoughts around them, help you to better understand how the district is approaching the challenging issues we are being confronted with. As you know all too well, the past few years have put stress on every student, parent, and staff member, creating high anxiety. With vigilance, diligence, and compassion we can continue to support one another and the work we do in the name of education and safety for all.

### **Potential Resources To Review:**

**Helping Children Cope: This site has many good tips for adults to use in helping children after traumatic events:**

<https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-traumatic-event/>

**This site offers advice on how to help your child after a traumatic event:**

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/trauma-care.html>

### **Community Input Request for ESSR III Spending Plan:**

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ("ARP ESSER" or "ESSER III") provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to States and school districts to help to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

Hartland Consolidated Schools is in the process of applying for its share of these funds, and currently seeking feedback from district and community stakeholders on the utilization of these one-time funds.

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey by December 12, 2021. The link is provided below for the ESSER III survey that you can copy and paste into your Wednesday update letter:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw2Fp1IIXV3cQ5BGoLocy7AF\\_6ch3yCILvegh8ypd8GL6pjA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw2Fp1IIXV3cQ5BGoLocy7AF_6ch3yCILvegh8ypd8GL6pjA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### **Weekly COVID Update:**

Since my last update on December 1, 2021, the data shows:

**Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested:** 19.5%

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day:** 192

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week:** 1,347

**Elementary Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week:** CE = 39, LE = 12, RE = 1, VE = 41

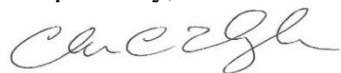
**Grade 5-8 Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week:** FIS = 39 and MS = 0

**High School / Alternative Education Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week:** HS = 5

I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (4), Lakes Elementary (2), Village Elementary (1), Farms Intermediate (5), Hartland Middle School (2), and Hartland High School (13). If you wish to explore additional information, please visit the sites below:

**Note:** Data taken from <https://www.mistartmap.info/> and <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Respectfully,



Superintendent