

9525 E. Highland Road Howell, Michigan 48843 Telephone (810) 626-2100 Fax (810) 626-2101

January 12, 2022

Dear HCS Education Community:

Prior to opening school in the fall, we shared that the District's priority for 2021-22 was to keep as many students in school as possible. We shared that this means from time-to-time we will need to move from recommended masking to mandatory masking. This year, we have created mandatory masking rules eight times as an alternative to moving a building to remote learning only. With the increase in the potential of identified outbreaks (3 or more in-school positive cases associated with one another) this may be an approach taken which could affect every school in the district. Please understand that we do this to ensure that we can keep school open, which we believe is best for children as student learning is much more effective in-person than virtually. We clearly understand that some individuals may disagree with this effort. The fact is that when a mask mandate is issued the choice is clear, wear a mask during the school day or stay home for the duration of the mandate.

Please continue to help us navigate these challenging times by staying home if showing symptoms (runny nose, watery eyes, fever, diarrhea, cough, etc.) or if someone in the household is awaiting test results or tests positive. It does no one any good to send a child to school when awaiting results, especially if they come back positive.

Thank you for understanding that these decisions are firm. There will be no tolerance for individuals who choose not to follow the shared expectations for attending school.

Weekly COVID Update:

Since my last update on January 5, 2022, the data shows:

Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 31.1% Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 328 Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 2,297

I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (1), Lakes Elementary (2), Round Elementary (6 or 1.3%), Village Elementary (6 or 1%), Farms Intermediate (9 or 1%), Hartland Middle School (15 or 1.8%), and Hartland High School (46 or 2.4%). If you wish to explore additional information, please visit the sites below:

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

Respectfully,

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Chuck Hughes Superintendent