



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

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August 17, 2021

Dear HCS Education Community:

I am writing to keep the community updated on developments regarding how the Hartland Consolidated School District will return to school, and clarify the “why” behind these decisions.

To start, lets review where we are:

**Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 8.5%**

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 22**

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 154**

**Elementary Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: NA**

**Grade 5-8 Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: NA**

**High School / Alternative Education Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: NA**

Currently, the county is seeing about 154 cases per week. The State of Michigan is showing a 7.7% positivity rate, 1,016 daily cases, and roughly 7,112 positive COVID cases per week. In the past week, I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Middle School (2), Hartland High School (2) and District-wide staff (1).

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

The following guidelines have been created based on input from our local health experts and legal firm:

## **Masks On The Bus:**

On August 5, 2021, I sent a letter sharing why we must follow the CDC mask mandate for public transportation. I have had numerous phone calls and emails questioning this expectation. I want to clarify that only a court can declare such an order unconstitutional. The President’s Executive Order 13998 directed the CDC to act on requirements regarding public travel. In January of 2021, the CDC issued an Order requiring persons to wear masks when boarding, disembarking, and traveling on any conveyance (including school buses). This order took effect on February 1, 2021 and has not been rescinded. If you choose to have your children ride one of our buses, which we encourage, they will be required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth.

## **Quarantine Procedures:**

On August 5, 2021, I shared information regarding the current MDHHS Order enacted on October 6, 2020. The MDHHS Epidemic Order for Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 requires, without exception, that school districts cooperate with local health officials to identify and mitigate potential epidemic outbreaks. Once again, this is an Order that will be followed, without exception.

## **Mask Optional Stance:**

While we will begin the year highly encouraging all staff and students to wear a mask while in school, this is still a family choice. Please know that if situations arise in our school district that require actions such as closing schools or creating a district mask mandate, the district will not hesitate to change direction. To ensure that the district is not liable for not following the advice of health experts, all Orders that mandate staff and students to wear a mask will be complied with. Currently, there are no mandates in place beyond public transportation, covered above.

## **Vaccination:**

I have had many calls and emails regarding vaccination and how the district should not be discussing vaccinations and holding vaccination clinics. As the Superintendent, I disagree with this assessment as part of my job is to provide information and potential resources for those who might otherwise not have access. As far as pushing vaccinations in the classroom or school setting, I can assure you that our staff will not be doing so as they understand it is a choice and their role is to remain neutral, unless vaccinations are required by law.

I am optimistic about the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing our students back in the school buildings learning with a purpose. I wish each of you the best as we continue to meet the challenges that are before us, which will need flexibility as direction could change at any time.

## **LCHD Documents of Interest (attached to the email in which you are reading and posted on our COVID-19 pop up page when visiting any of our official websites):**

K-12 COVID-19 Infection Prevention Guidance

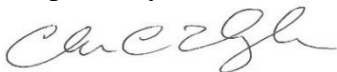
COVID-19 Community Resource Quick Sheet

Livingston County COVID-19 Resource Packet for Parents and Guardians

Managing a COVID-19 Case in School: A Guide for School Administrators

Have a wonderful school year.

Respectfully,



Chuck Hughes