



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent

9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, Michigan 48843

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

August 25, 2021

Dear HCS Education Community:

Since my last update on August 17, 2021, the data shows:

Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 11.6%

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 35

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 245

Elementary Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: CE = 9, LE = 22, RE = 122, VE = 5

Grade 5-8 Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: FIS = 70 and MS = 25

High School / Alternative Education Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: HS = 87

Hospitalization Rates: Liv. County 5.3 per 100 Beds

Currently, the county is seeing about 245 cases per week. The State of Michigan is showing an 8.7% positivity rate, 1,295 daily cases, and roughly 9,065 positive COVID cases per week. In the past week, I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Round Elementary (6), Village Elementary (1), Farms Intermediate (7), Middle School (1), Hartland High School (9) and District-wide staff (1).

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

My number one goal for the 2021-22 school year is to ensure an environment exists that facilitates learning for all children in the school district. Please know that I am aware that not everyone agrees with the decisions being made to make this goal a reality. All I can ask is that if you disagree with one decision or another, that you do what is best for you and your family while we work as a district to move forward.

Mask Mandate for Round Elementary:

Due to the number of quarantined teachers and students, I have mandated all students and staff wear a cloth mask over their nose and mouth while indoors at Round Elementary starting tomorrow, August 26, 2021 through Labor Day. We will reassess as we get closer to Labor Day. We have several students who have tested positive due to outside exposure, but enough that we feel it necessary to take this precaution instead of shutting down the building.

Quarantine

The district continues to engage in the strategy of quarantine to limit transmission of COVID in our buildings and classrooms. The purpose of quarantine is to remove those who may have been in close contact with a positive individual, to assess the spread. This is intended to help us limit potential transmission of COVID amongst a larger population. While I personally do not want to quarantine anyone, the fact is that it is a strategy used to limit transmission. If a child is quarantined, the teachers will provide work in packets or online through SeeSaw or Google Classroom.

Any time we begin to see a pattern of cases in a school, I will make the decision to shut down a building or create a mandatory mask policy. In all transparency, I will make the decision to try a mandatory mask policy before making the decision to close a building. I am watching the case patterns closely and will make decisions as necessary.

High School Chiller Issue:

I have had a few concerns shared with me regarding the high school chiller and why the district did not have the foresight to have it replaced with bond dollars. The answer is, we have the chiller inspected annually, just like I have my 21-year-old furnace and air conditioner inspected and tuned up annually at home. Our recent inspections have indicated that the chiller has at least an eight-year life expectancy left on it and probably more. When we created our 2020 Bond Program, we included approximately \$1.3 million for the high school control systems and about \$500,000 to replace 30 of the 90 individual units that the chiller feeds, but not the chiller itself (approximately \$1.6 million to replace), again due to projected life expectancy on the unit. When we plan bonds, we plan around not having to ask the community to support a bond program for 5-10 years down the road. This unforeseen problem is simply that, unforeseen and unplanned.

We are working to get a semitruck sized portable chiller on site to hook into our electrical and chiller system to provide air conditioning through the next month, until either the repair can be made, or the weather is cooler. In the meantime, all I can ask is for your patience, and that of our staff, as we work through this unexpected challenge.

Have a wonderful school year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck Hughes".

Chuck Hughes