



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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Dear HCS Education Community:

On Wednesday, I shared with you that the district was working with the Livingston County Health Department to roll out an Alternative Quarantine process to keep children in school when it has been confirmed that they were exposed to a positive COVID case. Thanks to our partnership with the Livingston County Health Department and the efforts of Dr. Juan Marquez, Dianne McCormick and their staff, it is just about ready to be implemented.

We are hopeful to start the Alternative Quarantine process on September 7, 2021 as an option in lieu of the Standard Quarantine (10-days out of school). This will be available for most classroom or bus COVID exposure situations. It will not be available for any extra-curricular or outside of school exposure incidents. Please understand that any individual choosing this option must follow all procedures or risk being moved to the Standard Quarantine process for the remainder of the quarantine period. If the LCHD determines large episodes of in-school transmissions are present they have every right to pause this option for a district, school, classroom or bus exposure situation. At this time, Round Elementary and Farms Intermediate will not be eligible to participate due to the number of positive COVID cases in the tracking system. The LCHD will announce when both schools will be eligible, and the district will share this with parents.

Below you will find a YouTube link that explains the Alternative Quarantine option and how it will work for families. Please remember, if you choose this option and do not comply with the expectations outlined such as wearing a well-fitting mask while in school and on the bus, submitting testing daily, or failing to quarantine as directed, you will be moved to the Standard Quarantine for the remainder of the quarantine period. How this works and its effectiveness with limiting in-school transmission while keeping students in school is simply up to everyone who enrolls in this Alternative Quarantine option.

## **LCHD Alternative Quarantine Parent/Student Explanation Video:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHIB4\\_uGVM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHIB4_uGVM4)

## **HCS Rule #1 for participation in the Alternative Quarantine option:**

No student may attend school under the Alternative Quarantine option until they have arranged this through the LCHD and have submitted their first negative COVID test result into the system. This is a Hartland Consolidated School District requirement that if not followed will default the student back to the Standard Quarantine.

## **HCS Rule #2 for participation in the Alternative Quarantine option:**

Students returning to school must first visit with office staff to share that they have tested negative on the first test and show that they are wearing a mask. This is a Hartland Consolidated School District requirement that if not followed will default the student back to the Standard Quarantine.

These rules must be adhered to for the safety of every person as the district works to ensure that a safe learning environment is provided for our students. Again, a failure to follow all the expectations of the Alternative Quarantine option will result in a default back to the Standard Quarantine. If moved to the Standard Quarantine option, there will be no option to return to the Alternative Quarantine, without expectation.

### **Help Each Other:**

Each of your building principals has been sending information to you if your student has been deemed a close contact. They will be sending their own informational communication regarding how the building will handle this new Alternative Quarantine process beyond the HCS Rule #1 and Rule #2 and what the LCHD has provided in their video (see link above) as situations arise.

Please remember to help the district 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." We all know that when children come to school sick and are COVID positive it requires the contact tracing process to begin and ends with having to quarantine students.

**KEY: Students must stay home until at least 24 hours symptom-free.**

Respectfully,



Chuck Hughes