



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843

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

September 9, 2021

Dear HCS Education Community:

Let's start this update with some positive information.

## Some Good News to Share:

Last year, the district had to continue standardized testing for our students. We worked hard to offer in person learning and this testing to all that wanted to participate. Overall, 93% of our students engaged in standardized testing either through M-STEP, PSAT, or SAT. While the total number of students proficient dropped from the previous year, our students outscored all county and state averages. What a tribute to our students and teachers despite the difficult year we experienced together.

### Spring 2021 M-STEP For County Schools Grades 3-7

School District	Avg. % Tested in All Grades	Rank in County	Avg. Proficiency in All Grades ELA	Avg. Proficiency in All Grades Math
Hartland	92.8%	1	60.1%	52.6%
County Average	83.7%		53.6%	43.6%
State Average	>75%		42.2%	33.8%

### 2020-21 PSAT and SAT Scores

	PSAT 8 Mean Score	PSAT 9 Mean Score	PSAT 10 Mean Score	SAT 11 Mean Score
Hartland	909	961	984	1055
County	868	935	961	1024
State	834	891	938	996

## Weekly COVID Update:

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

**Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested:** 10.1% (10.2% last week)

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day:** 50.1 (58.7 last week)

**Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week:** 351 (411 last week)

**Elementary Students in Quarantine Since Last Week:** CE = 6, LE = 38, RE = 43, VE = 0

**Grade 5-8 Students in Quarantine Since Last Week:** FIS = 79 and MS = 85

**High School / Alternative Education Students in Quarantine Since Last Week:** HS = 55

**Hospitalization Rates:** Liv. County 6.64 per 100 Beds

Currently, the county is seeing about 351 cases per week. The State of Michigan is showing a 9.4% positivity rate, 2,174 daily cases, and roughly 15,221 positive COVID cases per week. In the past week, I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (1), Lakes Elementary (3), Round Elementary (5), Village Elementary (4), Farms Intermediate (7), Middle School (11), and Hartland High School (10). Please understand that a positive case does not necessarily mean a quarantine took place if the case was due to outside exposure and the student was not in school.

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

It has certainly been a rocky and frustrating beginning. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to our administrative team, teachers, and support personnel for continually rolling with the changes as they occur. On September 3, 2021 I shared the Alternative Quarantine (AQ) roll out process with a note stating that we were hopeful to start this process on September 7, 2021. Unfortunately, I missed a step in the process, I apologize for any disappointment. HCS will begin participating on September 13, 2021. I have attached a letter specific to this process and hope everyone reads it to help understand the process. At this time, Round Elementary and Farms Intermediate will not be eligible for the AQ.

I have had some people ask about the legitimacy of the AQ program as they have researched such an approach finding it was used in universal masking situations only. While to my knowledge this is true, the added safeguards being put into place should help us be successful. These safeguards are:

- AQ will not be available in schools where outbreak or positive case are high enough to be a concern
- Masking will be required upon return to school when the student shows a negative first test
- Daily testing will be required
- Students who fail to follow the rules will be moved to the Standard Quarantine (SQ) for the remainder of the original quarantine period. This will be at the discretion of each building administrator with no appeal available

You might also be aware of the new MDHHS order which was released yesterday which allows students to return to school after day 7 of a SQ. This will be available only if the student produces a negative COVID test and agrees to wear a mask throughout the original SQ period. The MDHHS option will be made available to those students who DO NOT participate in the AQ process. It will require that the student stays home for 7 days and returns only with the result of a practitioner provided negative test (no home testing kits will be allowed). This test must be performed on day 7 and no earlier. In both the AQ and SQ process, a negative test result must be provided to the office staff, and the student must demonstrate that they agree to wear a mask for the remaining SQ time frame. These rules apply to all parties with no exception.

Since we were among one of the first school districts to start the school year it, may seem as if we are the only district experiencing the challenges that COVID has presented. We will be keeping an eye on what is happening around the state and comparing Livingston County data to counties where there are mask mandates. A key data point will be the in-school outbreaks as reported on the state outbreak list.

When I experience our students smiling, playing and being happy, I move out of my “negative state” and back to working toward creating the best experience possible for them and staff. Quarantines diminish the excitement for everyone involved. Please try to keep this process in perspective by realizing that if we can keep our students in school for most of the time, it is much better than any remote learning experience. If your child is quarantined, the teachers will do their very best to provide work that can be done from home and will work to help your child catch up when they return to school. This process does not look like synchronous learning, which would be the case if the building or district moved to a remote learning environment.

I am sorry that we are in this situation. I assure you that I hear all sides of your thinking process.

Respectfully,

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

Chuck Hughes