



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent

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Dear HCS Education Community:

Weekly COVID Update:

Since my last update on October 3, 2021, the data shows:

Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 18.6%

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 132

Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 924

Elementary Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week: CE = 16, LE = 7, RE = 44, VE = 0

Grade 5-8 Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week: FIS 83 and MS = 1

High School / Alternative Education Students Excluded/Quarantined Since Last Week: HS = 7

I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (6), Lakes Elementary (5), Round Elementary (3), Farms Intermediate (9), Hartland Middle School (2), Hartland High School (6) and Child Care (1). If you wish to explore additional information, please visit the sites below:

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

The State and County continue to see spikes in positive COVID-19 cases. These spikes require an understanding as to why, and the need to counter them with additional mitigation strategies. While the district has worked hard to provide a platform of choice to lessen the number of quarantines, we still have a long way to go to normalcy. Children ages 5-11 are now eligible for vaccination based on parent choice. It will take some time to ensure that all choosing to be vaccinated are able to be fully vaccinated. The district will not be vaccinating any children in school or without parental permission if clinics are made available outside of school hours or on the weekend.

Questions and Answers to continued inquiries:

Q: What is the processes for masking individual building sites and who makes this determination?

A: The simple answer is that the Superintendent makes the final decision based on collaborative conversations with our LCHD experts. The following should clear up any misinformation:

1. The Michigan School Code provides local school districts the general powers to make decisions that are designed to safely educate children.
2. The Board of Education has provided the Superintendent the flexibility to determine when and if additional mitigation actions are necessary such as creating temporary rules to ensure that we can continue to keep most children in school learning.
3. The LCHD identifies COVID-19 outbreaks based on contact tracing investigation and informs the Superintendent of their recommendations for additional mitigative actions.

Q. Is my child eligible for a religious exemption to not wear a mask?

A: No, the federal courts, which impact Michigan, have ruled that if a building is universally masked (all must mask), there is no exemption as no religious objection can conflict with the safety of the whole.

Q: What is the process for obtaining a medical exemption for not wearing a mask?

A: The process is:

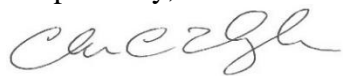
1. Obtain a timely and legitimate medical referral indicating the specific reason why the student cannot wear a facial mask.
2. Present the timely and legitimate medical referral to the building principal.
3. The building principal will review the medical referral and:
 - a. Deny the request.
 - b. Send the request to a review team which will include the parent.
4. Results of the review team could be a recommendation to use a face shield, deny the request, or potentially approve the request.
5. All determinations at the building level are final.

Good Things Happening:

The district continues to offer extra-curricular activities for students to participate. This fall, we have had roughly 690 high school students participate in clubs and 450 students participate on our athletic teams. We have about 225 students participating in marching band and 69 in choir. We also have about 70 thespians in the drama club who are performing “Murder on the 518” this weekend. Check out <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/hartland-high-school-drama-club-troupe-4213/murder-on-the-518-30894> for information or to purchase tickets for this fantastic show.

I can honestly say that I am proud of everyone (students, parents, staff) for your positive outlook knowing that while we are currently experiencing some inconveniences, we will eventually get back to what we all think of as normalcy. Thank you all for supporting the work we are doing to keep children in school and learning to the best of our ability.

Respectfully,



Superintendent