



Harbor Springs Public Schools

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December 8, 2021

Dear HSPS Community:

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has issued new COVID quarantine guidelines. Because school data continues to demonstrate low transmission risk when a classroom is fully masked and many students and staff are vaccinated, we can offer some additional options for schools and families when an exposure occurs in that setting. These options are designed to keep students in school as well as reduce the enormous amount of time that school personnel spend on contact tracing. The following represent the new guidelines that we will follow when there is an exposure to a COVID positive person at school:

Quarantine/Testing Guidelines for Exposure of Close Contact	
Vaccination and masking status	Steps to Take
Fully Vaccinated (in or out of school); Positive COVID test within last 90 Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quarantine needed. • Monitor for symptoms 14 days; get tested if symptoms develop.
Not fully vaccinated with universal masking at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quarantine needed. • Monitor for symptoms 14 days; get tested if symptoms develop.
Not fully vaccinated; No universal masking at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quarantine needed with daily testing for 7 days <u>OR</u> • Quarantine with test on day 6 or 7 after exposure and return to school on day 8 if test is negative and no symptoms <u>OR</u> • Quarantine for 10 days after exposure and return to school on day 11 if asymptomatic (no testing required). <p><i>*Includes cafeteria exposures, extra-curricular exposures such as a basketball game, performance, etc.</i></p>
Not fully vaccinated and exposure occurred outside school-related activity (e.g. household, social gathering)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine with test on day 6 or 7 after exposure and return to school on day 8 if test is negative <u>OR</u> • Quarantine for 10 days after exposure, return to school on day 11 if asymptomatic (no test required)

As always, when there is a positive case at school, we will report that case promptly to the Health Department and then provide communication to the entire District. The notification will include whether the person was a student or staff, the building, and other specifics in applicable (grade level, teacher, etc.). If students are properly masked, contact tracing will not be necessary. If students are not wearing masks or properly masked, parents/guardians of students who were 6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or more will be contacted and given the options stated above. The updated guidance is reflected in the [Revised District COVID Preparedness Plan](#).

One thing that we have seen throughout the pandemic is the everchanging protocols and guidance. I understand that these changes can be confusing. Your support is appreciated as we continue to navigate the approach to handling COVID in our schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Behrmann
Superintendent of Schools