



Holton Public Schools

“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence, Ready for the Future”

Elementary Office – (231) 821-1825 • Middle School Office – (231) 821-1775
High School Office – (231) 821-1725 • Athletic Office – (231) 821-1930

January 12, 2022

Dear Holton Families:

Recently, MDHHS issued updated guidance for K-12 Schools regarding quarantine and isolation. Public Health - Muskegon County made this guidance effective immediately. The changes reflect changes at the CDC that reduce the number of days of isolation and quarantine so that individuals can stay or return to work and school sooner. The guidance is confusing and depends on several variables. Variables such as symptoms, up to date vaccination, ability/willingness to mask, and testing all contribute to the number of days students and staff need to be out of school. In home exposure vs. at school exposure is also handled differently. Below is what MDHHS has shared to explain this guidance:

<h2>School Quarantine Guidance</h2> <p>What to do when students or staff are exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting, but do not have symptoms.</p> <p>Students and staff experiencing symptoms should not attend school activities.</p>	<p>Students and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1-10). If symptoms develop, test immediately. Day “0” is day of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff.</p>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Up to Date on Vaccines No Need to Quarantine</p> </td> <td> <p>Actions to Take</p> <p>Students and staff without symptoms do not need to quarantine. They should monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Not Up to Date on Vaccines Need to Quarantine</p> </td> <td> <p>Home quarantine for days 1-5 and test on day 5; and “Mask to Stay”[*] for days 6-10.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>“Test to Stay”^{**} for days 1-6 AND “Mask to Stay”^{**} for days 1-10.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p><small>[*]Mask to Stay: The consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask when around others in school and public places ^{**}Test to Stay: Test every other day for six days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a mask</small></p>	<p>Up to Date on Vaccines No Need to Quarantine</p>	<p>Actions to Take</p> <p>Students and staff without symptoms do not need to quarantine. They should monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days.</p>	<p>Not Up to Date on Vaccines Need to Quarantine</p>
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<p>Michigan.gov/Coronavirus</p>	<p>Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six if they have no symptoms and can wear a mask for five additional days.</p> <p>MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.</p>			



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We are working to implement this new guidance. We do ask for patience and grace as the changes are very different and require a bit more time for us to determine return to school dates.

The end of the first semester is this week and for many of our secondary students exams have begun. We are also experiencing a large number of students who are out of school due to the surge in cases. Teachers are ready to accommodate our students who are absent during exams.

For those students who were in quarantine or isolation before the new guidance, we are working on a plan to contact you and change dates of return. You are also welcome to call the building or district office and we will work through the new guidance with you.

Finally, regarding the new guidance, the option to shorten a COVID+ isolation period to 5 days is only if there are improved or no symptoms, fever free for 24 hours, and a willingness to wear a mask at all times for days 6-10. During days 6-10, lunch should be eaten distanced from others in the cafeteria. If your child has tested positive and is returning to school prior to day 10, please remind them to eat distanced from others in the cafeteria.

I am hopeful that the new guidance will return students to school sooner and continue to provide in person instruction.

Thank you for your support! The best way forward is together!

Respectfully,

Dr. Adam Bayne
Superintendent