

Good evening parents, this is Vaughn White, Superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools with a brief message.

Parents, we have been very fortunate not to have any known COVID 19 cases at school. This means we are working well together to keep this virus away from our community. However, as we study the data from the MI Safe Start Map website and receive status reports from our Health Department, we have noticed a significant uptick in cases in both Newaygo and Oceana Counties. We continue to maintain our precautions at school with disinfecting, wearing masks, and social distancing to help prevent the spread of this disease at school.

We have learned from other districts, however, that the primary spread of this virus happens outside of the school walls. Surely, it is possible to have COVID 19 spread in school, but most of the situations so far have stemmed from social gatherings of family and friends as well as college students coming home for a long weekend. You are the most important component for preventing students from coming to school with COVID 19. So here are some critical reminders that will help us get through the challenge of this pandemic. If your child is feeling ill, you must keep them home and we prefer that you take them to a health care provider, such as a doctor's office to get a health assessment. If your child is sick at school, we will ask that this takes place before they return. There are some illnesses going around right now that include the common Cold and Strep Throat that present similar symptoms to COVID 19. A health care professional can diagnose and may be able to get your child back to school sooner. With flu season coming, it is important to consider getting a flu shot because having the flu and getting Covid-19 can cause a significant health challenge.

Parents, if anyone in your family is having symptoms of COVID 19, please keep your child home until a COVID 19 test can be administered to know whether the person in the home is positive. Do not send your child to school if someone in your home suspects they have COVID 19 or are waiting for test results to come back. As an additional reminder, please be sure to contact the school office regarding your child's absence anytime they are kept home.

Last, it is important to note that when students or staff need to be quarantined, it does not necessarily mean they have COVID 19. Quarantining is a preventative method to lessen the spread of the virus, so we ask for you to remind your children that this is just part of the process of living through a pandemic.

Thank you for your time listening to this message and thank you for working with us for the health and safety of your children.