

November 10, 2021

Dear Hopkins Public Schools Families:

Over the past several weeks we have experienced a significant increase in positive COVID-19 cases, health department quarantines and other illnesses which has resulted in severe attendance and staff shortage issues.

On Tuesday, November 9, 25% of the students from Hopkins Elementary and Hopkins Middle School were absent due to illness/quarantine. In addition to student absences, the district as a whole has also been faced with an increase in staff absences due to illness. As a result of these challenges, Hopkins Public Schools will be closed on Thursday, November 11 and Friday, November 12 (all after school activities will also be cancelled on these days).

If you would like meals on Thursday and Friday please sign up [HERE](#). Meals can be picked up at the high school cafeteria on Thursday morning between 8-9:30 a.m.

For the week of November 15-19 **only**, masks will be required to be worn throughout the district while indoors. This will reduce the number of people that need to quarantine according to the Allegan County Health Department Guidance (see document [HERE](#)).

Masks will remain optional at athletics and extracurricular activities occurring outside of the traditional school day.

There will be no school the week of November 22. This will give our families a nine day break and hopefully allow us to have a reset to continue in a more normal mode when school resumes on November 29. When students return on November 29, mask wearing will be recommended but not required.

The current quarantine rules allow for close contacts to remain in school while monitoring their symptoms **if** both the positive case and close contact were masked. Taking advantage of this health department rule in the short term will allow for more students to attend school and for far fewer student quarantines that may impact holiday plans.

To summarize:

- No school or extracurricular events on Thursday & Friday (November 11-12). Deep cleaning will occur.
- Return to school next week (November 15). Masks are required.
- No school for students on November 22 & 23. Enjoy an extra long Thanksgiving break.
- Return to school on November 29 - masks optional.

Sincerely,

The Board & Administration of Hopkins Public Schools