Holly Area Schools
COVID-19 Preparedness and
Response Plan

August 10, 2020
Administration is updating the School Board on

○ The District’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan also known as our district’s Phase 4 Return to Learn Plan.
  ■ HAS In-Person Learning
    ● Permitted only with stringent safety protocols as outlined in this presentation and in our full plan.
  ■ HAS 100% Virtual Learning

○ An analysis of how our district’s Return to Learn Plan meets the requirements and recommendations of the MI Safe Schools Roadmap

○ Challenges we are still facing and identifying related to in-person instruction
Michigan’s Return to School Roadmap

- The Governor created a COVID-19 Task Force on Education consisting of staff members from the Michigan Department Education and other state departments; administrators and staff members from intermediate school districts; and local school districts, parents, students, and other community leaders.

- The task force published and released the MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap on June 30th.

- The MI Safe Schools Roadmap was released in conjunction with Executive Order No. 2020-142 which explicitly names the requirements that are shared in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap.
Understanding the Roadmap
Phases of the MI Safe Schools Roadmap

**MI SAFE SCHOOLS ROADMAP**

**PHASES 1-3**
- No in-person instruction

**PHASE 4**
- In-person instruction is permitted with **required** safety protocols

**PHASE 5**
- Schools open for in-person instruction with **minimal** required safety protocols

**PHASE 6**
- Open for in-person instruction
Required and Recommended Protocols

- “Safety protocols that are **required** must be implemented by all Michigan schools that serve students in grades preK-12. They are the most feasible protocols that will minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19.”

- “Safety protocols that are either **strongly recommended or recommended** are optional and all schools may choose to implement these safety protocols to minimize spread of COVID-19. All strongly recommended and recommended protocols and actions will not be appropriate or feasible in all settings and should be implemented as appropriate.”
COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan

- Local school districts use a template to complete and submit to their Intermediate School District (ISD) by August 15.

- HAS Superintendent has continued to update students, parents, and staff on the progress of our reopening plan through ongoing communications, FAQ process, and our district’s Return to Learn Webpage. In addition, the Superintendent has provided multiple updates to the school board each week on the plan progress.

- Following Board Approval, we will submit to Oakland Schools who will then turn our plan in to the state. We will also post the full plan on our website.
Phase 4 Roadmap
Implementation
As mandated in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap, every student and staff member must wear a face mask when entering the building, unless a medical exception is provided, the individual is under two years old or is unable to remove his/her own mask.

- **Masks will be required for all staff district-wide and students in Grades Y5 -12 at all times during the school day, including on buses and during arrival and dismissal, except during meals.**
- **Medical documentation for a mask exception is required if a student, teacher, or staff member is unable to wear a mask for any reason.**
- **Disposable masks will be available in all buildings for students who come to school without a face mask.**
The CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected.

*Please use the following links for more information.*


Student Use of Masks

- Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable masks from home and wash them daily when they return home. It is likely that students will find the fit of a familiar mask more comfortable and effective. Families who have children that prefer their own reusable masks may wish for students to keep an extra mask in their backpack or in their elementary classroom in case the first mask becomes dirty or wet.

- If a student chooses to bring a disposable mask from home, it must be disposed of at the end of the day. Disposable masks cannot be reused over multiple days.

- In the event that students do not have a personal mask from home, misplace their mask during the course of the day, or their mask becomes dirty or wet, the school will have disposable masks available.
Challenges with Mask Requirements

- Not strictly following facial covering protocols will increase risk for staff and students.
- Discipline and supervision related to mask wearing will take time away from teacher and administrator instructional duties.
- The constant need to resupply disposable masks may become a challenge. Different vendors need to be used to consistently get more masks in stock.
- There is an increased cost for purchasing disposable masks for staff and students. For example, over 200,000 masks have been ordered by the Facilities Department. This cost $70,000 and only 16,000 masks have arrived. These would not last more than two weeks. These have been on order for over a month.
HAS will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissue, and signs reinforcing hand washing techniques).

Hand sanitizer or sinks with soap will be available in each classroom and in common spaces throughout the schools.

Teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer.

Drinking fountains will be turned off during Phase 4. Students may bring a water bottle from home, and if they need more water during the day a disposable water bottle will be provided to them.
Phase 4 Cleaning Requirement & Implementation

- Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms, must undergo cleaning *at least every four hours* with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.

- Libraries, computer labs, art rooms, and other hands-on classrooms will undergo cleaning after every class period with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.

- Measures have been taken to reduce as many touch points as possible.
  - Appropriate protocols on student use of classroom supplies are being adopted to reduce the sharing of certain supplies and/or do it in a safe manner.

- There will be very limited transitions Y5 - 12 in our Cohort Model. Most often, an entire class would only be leaving for lunch or for an outdoor activity. Individual students should be assigned a seat. Cleaning supplies are also being provided in each classroom.
Cohorting Model for Y5 - 12 Students significantly reduces the intermingling of students by reducing student transitions. Teachers rotate in and out of classrooms providing instruction.
  ○ This also allows the district to address cleaning time restraints and maintain scheduled minutes of instruction.
  ○ This also supports contact tracing strategies.

Challenges with Cleaning Requirements

- New investment/costs with added custodial staffing to meet cleaning requirements
- Ordering and receiving “In Demand” supplies
- New investment/costs with added cleaning and disinfecting supplies
  ○ Costs continue to rise on these products
Phase 4 Transportation Requirement & Implementation

- Holly Area Schools will have mounted hand sanitizer stations on every bus and the students will be required to use it as they enter the bus.
- All Y5-12 Students and All Staff on the bus must wear a facial covering.
- All students will be assigned seats.
- All Buses will be cleaned between routes.

Challenges with Transportation Requirement & Implementation
- Increased costs of installing hand sanitizer on each bus
- Added cameras for monitoring to ensure students are wearing masks at all times and to assist in tracing, if necessary
- Increased driver working hours for proper cleaning of buses after every route
- Limited guest drivers available in the event of positive COVID-19 cases
Phase 4 Food Service Safety Measures

- All elementary, middle school, and high schools students will be served lunch in large spaces at our buildings.
- Students will be spread out providing increased spacing between each student.
- All Students will wear masks, only to be removed while eating.
- Food Service staff will drop off bag/box breakfast and lunch to Elementary classrooms.
  - Breakfast will be done in the classrooms.
  - Students go to one of two large spaces at lunch time (Cafeteria or Gym).
● At the middle school level, meals will be provided in the gym. Areas will be marked with signage to support distancing.

● HMS & HHS breakfast will be available at 3 locations in the building for students who indicated selected a meal. Students will eat breakfast in the classroom.

● HMS students enter the lunch service line at a staggered schedule. Students will be released from class in a staggered fashion.

● High School students will be served lunch in three locations to promote social distancing and keep students with assigned cohorts. Markings will be put on the floor to designate six foot distancing as students wait in line to pick up meals at all three locations.
Holly Area Schools has received no support from the Oakland County Health Division during the past 5 weeks of planning. As a result, Holly Area Schools is using the Kent County Health Department’s COVID-19 Toolkit for School Teachers and Administrators.

Students and staff participate in daily health screenings.

- All school staff will be required to conduct a health safety self assessment at home prior to coming to work and verifying through a Google form that they are safe to work. This will include taking their temperature and reporting this daily on the Google form.
- We are also recommending that families continuously monitor for symptoms and keep students home if they have a fever/feverish, chills, sore throat, dry cough, difficulty breathing, or digestive issues such as diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

Daily Home Screenings for Students

Protocols will continue to be reviewed and updated as direction is made available by the county health department.
Screening Challenges

- Staff or students may be Covid-19 positive with no symptoms.
- Staff unable to work will cause difficulties filling positions on a short notice.
- Negative academic impact having staff in and out of classrooms.
- Reliability of screening questions to identify symptoms specific to Covid-19.
- Daily routines take time to develop and daily screenings can easily be forgotten.
- Difficulty distinguishing between symptoms of COVID-19 and other common illnesses (seasonal allergies, common cold).
● Any individual who displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated in a designated space until they can be removed from the school campus.

● **Isolation** is for people who are COVID positive. It separates people who are infected with the virus from people who are not infected. It usually lasts 10 days.

● **Quarantine** is for people who are well but were exposed to someone who is COVID positive. It keeps someone who *might* have been infected with the virus away from others. Quarantine lasts 14 days since the last possible exposure.

● Per the health department guidelines, any student, teacher or staff person that tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home and will be excluded from school until
  ● 3 days with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) **and**
  ● respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **and**
  ● 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
If a student, teacher, or staff member has been exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19, they should **quarantine** for 14 days since the last possible exposure.

○ Close Contact is defined as: A person who was within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes without a mask.

If a student in my child’s class tests positive for COVID-19, Holly Area Schools will alert the Oakland County Health Division. The district will alert families by providing general communication about the COVID-19 positive case while protecting the identity of the person who is infected. All identified close contacts of the COVID-19 positive case must **quarantine** at home for 14 days from the last positive day of exposure and monitor for symptoms.

Household members, classmates, and teachers of positive COVID-19 family members in isolation will be excluded from school for **14 days after their last date of close contact**.
Phase 4 COVID-19 Positive Case Issues

- Delayed testing results complicates contact tracing and can impact the ability to quarantine and isolate cases.

- Exposure to COVID positive case requires quarantine of individuals and/or classrooms.

- It is strongly recommended that areas that have been exposed to positive COVID cases be closed for a minimum of 24 hours before cleaning to minimize the risk of airborne transmission.

- Significant staffing is required to respond to COVID related situations.
  - Health Department communication
  - Contacting impacted community members
  - Required documentation
Phase 4 Gatherings & Extracurricular Activities

- No indoor assemblies held at the elementary and secondary buildings. All essential presentations will be done electronically or by staff entering the room to share the needed information.

- A recess schedule will be put together at elementary buildings. Playgrounds will be divided into marked sections for student classes (cohort groups) to remain in their area of the playground. Face masks will be worn at all times on the playground unless the individual is medically unable. Students will use hand sanitizer before entering the building.

- All field trips are suspended, this will be reviewed as we move to Phase 5.
Phase 4 Athletics

- We are currently meeting requirements for our summer athletic activities and are also following protocols for Fall practices.

- At this time, none of our student-athletes have participated in any competitions.

- Holly Area Schools and districts across our state are currently awaiting for an update from the MHSAA, which we hope to receive later this week. Our athletic department and our district will be providing important updates in the coming days regarding the status of Fall Athletics.
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<td>● Emergency response to a global pandemic</td>
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<td>● Limited time resources to develop</td>
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<td>● Students without computer and internet access</td>
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<td>● Lack of training for virtual instruction</td>
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<td>● Teachers needed to make due with tools they had for remote learning</td>
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<td>● Detailed robust learning plan</td>
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<td>● High quality teaching and learning tools to support virtual learning</td>
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Teaching and Learning

● Full time, online instruction that provides same rigor, pacing and standards of excellence
  ○ Students will be engaged in the same lessons and assignments online as if they were physically in a school classroom.
  ○ Teachers will report to their classrooms each day.
● Program created and instructed by Highly Qualified Holly Schools Teachers
● Daily Interaction between students and Holly Teachers
● Combination of online and offline activities for students
● Attendance, assignments/activities are required, Teachers will provide feedback and grades.
● Students will be interacting daily with HAS teachers live in a variety of ways. For example,
  ○ Meeting with a teacher one-on-one, in a small group, or as a whole class
  ○ Participating in a discussion online
  ○ Watching/listening to video or audio lessons
Holly Virtual Learning Program

Specific Professional Learning to Support Virtual Program

● Blended Learning Graduate Courses - June 2020
  ○ 24 hours
  ○ 95% completed this voluntary training by the end of June.
  ○ Set the stage for teachers to begin thinking about how instruction will shift in a virtual environment.

● Learning Management System Selection
  ○ 25 teachers and administration participated in learning sessions for LMS platforms.
  ○ Spent two weeks working in Schoology Sandbox classrooms and provided valuable feedback.

● Schoology Pioneer Training Team
  ○ Beginning in late July, 20 teachers representing all areas of the district volunteered and began learning.
  ○ Team is providing feedback on how to support all staff as they come on board.
  ○ Team is collaborating to set structures, create consistency for ease of learning for students, staff and families.

● Full Staff Training
  ○ Schoology - began August 7
  ○ Summer Conference
  ○ PD Days - ongoing learning and support throughout the year.
Technology

- 1:1 Chromebooks - all students 1st - 12th grades
- 1:1 iPads - all students Y5 and Kindergarten
- Support to advance our technology plan
  - Bond dollars
  - Cares Act Funds
- Technology Integration Specialist - Jillian Johnson
- Tech Help Desk for students through Holly Technology Team
- Holly has always been on the cutting edge with technology, and grant funds have allowed us to speed up our original technology plan. This year our district is able to offer a device to every student enrolled.
Tools to Support Virtual Teaching and Learning

- Schoology - Learning Management System
- ST Math
- Zearn
- Literacy Footprints Digital Library
- Reading Plus
- Google Apps
- Electronic textbooks/curriculum resources in several content areas
- Smartboards in all secondary classrooms and Smartboard training
Holly Virtual Learning Program

Holly Virtual Program: Students

- Students will use Schoology LMS to follow a learning path, organize their day, and communicate with teachers.
- Students will participate in classroom meetings and lessons as appropriate for the learning goal on specific times and days (whole group, small group, and/or individual meetings). Their Schoology Calendar will guide their schedule.
- Students have access to video recorded lessons and virtual tools for repeated viewing, to support learning and understanding, and to provide some flexibility.
- Students will have additional opportunities for flexibility through time, path, and pace of learning.
- Students will demonstrate learning through Schoology, i.e. online assignments, documents, quizzes and tests, projects, videos, photographs, and virtual meetings.
Holly Virtual Program: Teachers

- Teachers will provide highly effective learning in virtual setting aligned to Michigan’s Academic Standards.
- Teachers will report to their classrooms each day.
- Teachers will provide whole class, small group, one-on-one instruction virtually (recorded as appropriate for flexibility).
- Teachers will present all information through Schoology, to be accessed by students and parents.
- Teachers will be available during school hours for teaching, collaboration, planning, and communication with families.
- Teachers will monitor student learning, adjust instruction to meet student needs, and provide regular feedback to students.
Holly Virtual Program: Parents

- Be optimistic, positive, and supportive. We are all in this together to provide the best possible education for your child(ren) in difficult times.
- Stay connected by checking Schoology on a regular basis; keep your eyes on the Schoology Calendar.
- Provide a consistent schedule for your child.
- Allow your child to do the work, solve the problems, and learn from his/her mistakes.
- Ensure your child has a distraction free place to work. Allow for breaks in their day as needed. Make sure they get enough rest, food, relaxation, and fun time.
- Help your child as needed with technology and problem solving (tech. help desk).
- Encourage your child to communicate with his/her teacher when there are questions.
- Communicate with your child’s teacher regularly, or as needed.
Students with special needs enrolled in remote learning will receive programs and services parallel to those supports provided in seat. Program and service providers will work collaboratively with general education teachers to support remote learning following the IEP process. The Individualized Education Programs (IEP) will be reviewed with families to address the unique needs of the individual child. Student progress toward annual IEP goals and objectives will be measured, monitored, and reported to support continuous progress.
Special Education Virtual Instruction

- Students who require direct programming and services as outlined in their IEPs will receive those supports virtually.
- Students who require consult services, IEP consult service times will be followed as written in IEPs.
- Accommodations and modifications to instruction and materials will follow student IEPs to support progress in general education.
- The Child Find process will remain in place.
- Students with Section 504 Plans will be accommodated in remote instruction in collaboration between students, parents and staff.
In order to support staffing and safety protocols for In-Person Learning, we have asked families to commit to In-Person or Virtual Learning for the full school year. However, we know that there may be extenuating circumstances and will review student’s situations on a case by case basis at the end of the marking period. If the state of the pandemic changes sooner, we will revisit those timelines.
The spring program has taught us a lot. We thank everyone for their flexibility, understanding, and feedback. All of your support has assisted us in our planning for a more comprehensive program to be launched this school year. We have designed the new virtual program to align with the in-person program that we offer in our school buildings.
Staff Return to School Follow-up Survey
Staff Survey

Please select your work location(s).

280 responses

- Davisburg Elementary: 47 (16.8%)
- Holly Elementary: 39 (13.9%)
- Patterson Elementary: 44 (15.7%)
- Rose Pioneer Elementary: 45 (16.1%)
- Holly Middle School: 59 (21.1%)
- Holly High School: 75 (26.8%)
- Administration Office at Karl Richter: 11 (3.9%)
- Richter Campus: 9 (3.2%)
- Facilities Office at Karl Richter: 5 (1.8%)
- Richter Campus: 3 (1.1%)
- Total: 23 (8.2%)
Physical Health (Self). I have a health condition that could increase my vulnerability to illness (specifically, COVID-19) with daily co-worker/student contact.

280 responses
Physical Health (Family). I live with, or am the primary caretaker of a person who would be significantly vulnerable to illness (specifically, COVID-19) if I were exposed at work.

280 responses

- 68.9% Yes
- 31.1% NO
Physical Safety. I feel physically safe performing my job role with co-workers and students returning to school for Face-to-Face instruction.

280 responses
Phase 4
Recommendation
Concerns with an August 31st Reopening to In-Person

- Lack of support from the Oakland County Health Division on required protocols for Screening Students and Staff and Responding to Positive COVID-19 Cases. This is an important part of the requirements in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap.
- Increase in positive cases impacting schools before the school year officially starts.
- Constant opening & closing of classrooms and possibly buildings; sending students and staff home to quarantine as we see rising numbers of positive tests.
  - 1 case in an office area causes an entire office and building to be shut down for 14 days.
- Current COVID-19 Testing requiring a 5 day turnaround for results.
  - Local medical experts tell us that this puts school districts in a vulnerable position for accurate contact tracing. Anything over a 48 hour turnaround creates a tremendous challenge for identifying the impact on students and staff.
  - Difficult to keep buildings staffed and support learning while staff under quarantine.
  - An example in Michigan Legislature this past week: lawmakers went home when one person tested positive for COVID-19. All sessions and meetings cancelled for everyone.
Concerns with an August 31st Reopening to In-Person

- State Legislature has provided no guidance through the process of reopening schools.
- Governor only provided the MI Safe Schools Roadmap on June 30th.
  - No additional support or guidance.
  - Alternatively, new Executive Orders that have passed limit indoor gathers to no more than 10 people conflicting with the EO for reopening schools.
- Recently Confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Lyon among youth (ages 15 - 19) increased from 3 cases to 42 in just a couple of weeks. In Fenton and other areas of Genesee County, the increase for this age group went from 19 confirmed cases to 94. These are among the students returning to school.
- The Elkhart Indiana County Health Department recommended in-person learning on Aug. 3rd and by the end of that week, cancelled all athletics until further notice and all schools will begin online.
- Over 338,000 children test positive for COVID-19. Over 100,000 of these children tested positive in the past two weeks.
- Over 30% of the universities in our nation are beginning the school year with Virtual Instruction.
- Job performance of staff who have strong concerns and fears of being in a closed environment with students for an extended period of time.
Throughout our research and planning, no one has provided me with the degree of risk with reopening schools right now for In-Person learning in spite of multiple requests (a risk assessment of how this virus can lead to illness or worse). Local medical professionals shared we can expect students and staff to contract the virus with a current reopening.

I am not a medical professional. Superintendents and School Boards have been put into a very difficult position to make impossible decisions in a global health crisis.

When I look at the data and consider how a statistic converts into a human being, I struggle immensely with applying that concept to define an acceptable rate of loss in our school system, both in terms of student and staff.
We “pilot” many programs and strategies in our district to improve the academic learning of our students. Holly Area Schools is not willing to “pilot” reopening schools to In-Person instruction on August 31st without the adequate support and Clear Guidance from our State Leaders and County & State Health Departments. The acceptable rate of loss for students and staff in our district is "0."

On Monday, August 10, 2020, The Board of Education of Holly Area Schools approved the recommendation to begin the 2020 - 2021 school year in a 100% Virtual Learning Plan for all students until October 30th with the option of returning sooner given adequate and appropriate guidance from state health officials. Many school districts in the State and several in Oakland County have already gone in this direction.
Our goal is to return to an In-Person option for parents as soon as possible. We will continue to assess the situation. I have written the Governor’s office and our State Leaders for a clear direction from the Medical and Science Community regarding students returning to schools in-person.

Holly Area Schools will continue to plan and prepare our student schedules for In-Person Learning. It will be very important for any remaining parents to complete the Skyward Online Verification so we can appropriately plan for a full In-Person option when it is announced.

We will continue to communicate updates to Holly Area Schools families. We appreciate your support and understanding.

#BronchosUnited and #BronchoPride will persevere. Our continued strength and partnership will allow our district to overcome this global pandemic that we are facing.