

Dear Families of Harrison School:

McHenry County has recently moved to the “high” community transmission level for Covid-19 as indicated in the chart below:

Overall Evaluation:
High Transmission

Metric	Current Status	Evaluation
Overall Evaluation	High Transmission	
Incidence Rate	≥ 100 Cases per 100,000 Population over the past 7 days	High Transmission
Test Positivity	8 - 9.9 %	Substantial Transmission

Last updated 8/30/2021. View image in landscape mode for best results on mobile devices. The image may not be fully viewable on all mobile devices.

The level of community transmission (e.g., low, moderate, substantial, or high) for McHenry County is based on incidence rate and test positivity as summarized in the table below. Please note: If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected.

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Incidence Rate	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Test Positivity	0-4.9%	5-7.9%	8-9.9%	≥10.0%

As a result of the “High” community transmission designation, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) have released revised Interim Guidance and requirements for schools. **Vaccinated students will not be required to quarantine** if they are determined to be in close contact with a COVID-positive individual either inside or outside of school as long as they are asymptomatic. As a reminder, families can provide proof of vaccination to the school health office if applicable. The new guidance primarily involves quarantine options for unvaccinated students. **Each student/family will be notified which modified quarantine option is available determined by case specifics. (Modified quarantine options 2-4 not guaranteed.)**

Quarantine Guidance (Four Options) - Only for Exposures that Occurred in School

Option 1: Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days.

- Date of last exposure is considered day 0 (standard quarantine).

Option 2: Quarantine for 10 calendar days

- A close contact can return on day 11 after last date of exposure only after testing negative through a SARS-CoV-2 PCR diagnostic test on day 9 or 10.
- This can only be used for return to the classroom, not extracurricular activities.
- Student cannot ride bus to or from school until 14-day period is over **(during High transmission –McHenry County).**

Option 3: Quarantine for 7 calendar days (must work with McHenry County Health Department contact tracers in order to qualify).

- A close contact can return to school on day 8 only after testing negative through a SARS-CoV-2 PCR diagnostic test on day 6 or 7.
- This can only be used for return to the classroom, not extracurricular activities.
- Student cannot ride bus to or from school until 14-day period is over **(during High transmission in McHenry County).**

Option 4: Test to Stay Strategy (applicable if/when in-school testing program is in place)

- Close contact may remain in school if they are tested on days one, three, five, and seven from the date of exposure, the date of last exposure is considered day 0.
- Providing the close contact tested negative on those days using a PCR test, contact is permitted to stay in the classroom and in general participate in extracurricular activities.

Please Note: While McHenry County is in “**high community transmission**” level, we must follow the guidance below:

- Students are **not** eligible for Option 4 “Test to Stay” program to return to **high-risk** extracurricular activities and athletic programs. Students can use this option to return to the classroom and extracurricular activities and athletic programs that are not considered high risk activities.
- Students who are deemed close contacts and participate in options 2-4 above cannot use school bus for 14 calendar days after their last exposure to the COVID-19 case.

External Exposure (Unvaccinated Students) - Outside of School

- All external (i.e. outside of school) exposures will be investigated on a case-by-case basis. MCDH will determine whether modified quarantine options (options 2-4 above) can be used based on its investigation.
- If it is determined that the close contact meets criteria for modified quarantine, MCDH will notify the school liaison. Otherwise, all external exposures should quarantine at home for 14 calendar days (option 1 above).
- MCDH will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. MCDH may determine that a close contact is not a candidate for modified quarantine (options 2-4 above) due to a high-risk exposure, such as sustained close contact.
- Options 2-4 are only available if both the COVID positive individual and close contact were both masked or outdoors.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather McLaughlin, RN at 815-653-2311, ext. 2014.

IDPH FAQ (dated 8/9/2021) document is located on the www.HSD36.org under Covid-19 updates.