



April 8, 2021

Dear HLCS Staff and Families,

After many months of having very little to report regarding the spread of COVID 19 at Harbor Light Christian School, it is with sadness that I send this letter. As of today, April 8th, the number of COVID positive students or staff members is exactly one.

Over spring break, a preschool student became sick with COVID. No contact tracing was required, as the last time they came into contact with students or teachers was March 25th. The student will remain out until his/her 10 day quarantine period is over.

Additionally, there is a staff member and several students across the elementary, and middle/high school who are considered close contacts of family members who have tested positive with COVID 19. We will immediately notify the HLCS community if any of these students or staff test positive and work with the Health Department to identify close contacts. Overall, we've been incredibly blessed to have so little interruption to our learning this school year because of positive cases. However, it is important for you to know that Michigan is currently experiencing a spike in its COVID numbers—and as you can tell from the information I just shared with you—so is the Harbor Light community. We will continue to follow our mitigation and cleaning measures here at school and strongly encourage you to continue screening your children for any symptoms that may be associated with COVID 19 at home.

Finally, we did have one high school athlete test positive with our Rapid Antigen Testing kits today, and though we did immediately send the student home, we will not officially quarantine any who came into close contact with them until they get the RNA viral test from a doctor's office. Rest assured that we will be working with the Health Department to identify all close contacts and quarantine them immediately upon official results.

Harbor Light Christian School will not release the names of anyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19, as this is protected health information. The school will only acknowledge a positive case and will discourage parents and community members from engaging in discussions related to the identity of the individual(s) diagnosed with COVID-19. It is our role to tell all the families of Harbor Light Christian School that we are moving forward under the guidance of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and that all measures have been taken to protect the wellbeing of your child(ren). Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff, and community members. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. We encourage everyone to remain calm and to be empathic and respectful to those affected.

If you have questions, HLCS is also only a phone call away, 231-347-7859 or you may also call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan's Public Health Information Line at 1-800-389-5959. Please join us in praying for all staff and students involved.

Blessings,



Kelly Dutcher

Kelly Dutcher, Administrator
Harbor Light Christian School