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HGMICS Important CEO Update - October 19, 2020

1 message

Howard Gardner MI Charter School <marie.george@myhgsd.com>
To: michael.abballe@myhgsd.com

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 5:59 PM

Dear Howard Gardner MI Charter School Community,

HGMICS closely monitors the health and safety conditions of our school and the local community. Since reopening the school on August 31, 2020, we welcomed 75% of our students coming into the school, following an A/B hybrid schedule. We are pleased that no COVID cases among students or staff were reported since we reopened.

In September 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) issued guidance for schools to assist in their selection of the appropriate instructional model considering the level of community spread (Low, Moderate, Substantial) in one's county. Lackawanna County has been designated as having **Moderate Community Spread** for the duration of our reopening and accordingly the School is following PDE guidance by offering both at-school and all remote programs.

Based upon the recent PA Department of Health COVID data, Lackawanna County experienced a significant increase of COVID cases during the week of October 12th; this has resulted in PDE designating our County as having **Substantial Community Spread**. If this designation continues for a second consecutive week (week of October 19th), then in following PDE guidance we will offer **all-remote instruction effective Monday, November 2, 2020 for all students**.

While we are hopeful that this spike in cases is an anomaly and that the county returns to Moderate, we are preparing to transition to an all-remote program for those students in the at-school program while simultaneously continuing to offer the existing all-remote program.

I was directly informed today by representatives from the Department of Health and PDE about this changing situation and wanted to inform you ASAP. Both our staff and Trustees have also been apprised. Be assured additional updates and information will follow.

All the best,
Marie