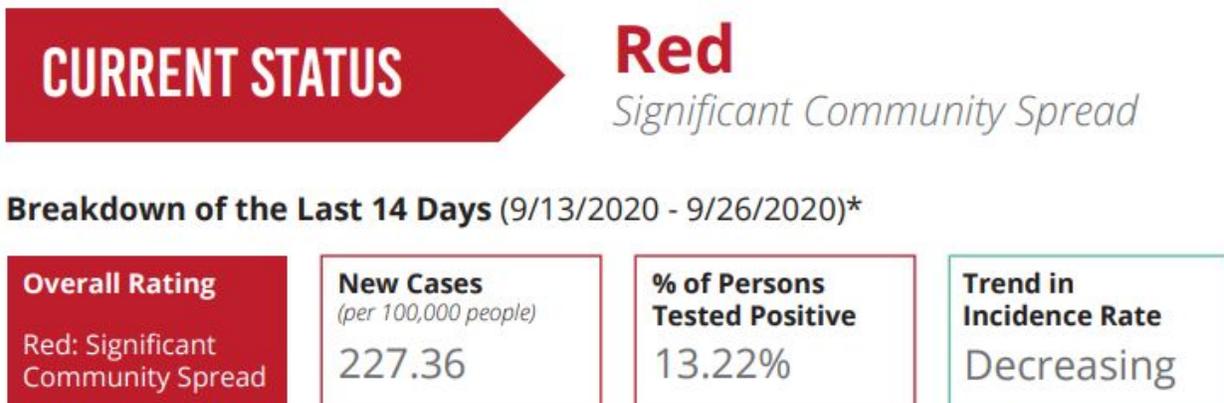


A heartfelt thank you to students, staff and parents for your commitment and hard work in making the beginning of the school year a success. We especially appreciate the patience of our parents in this virtual world. Students and teachers have adapted well to distance learning. It is exciting to see how much students are learning and growing during these unusual times.

As we move toward the close of the first quarter of the school year, we wanted to provide you with an update on the district's Health Status. The district continues to follow the guidance of the local and state health departments. The Jackson County Health Department recommends that school buildings remain closed if the percentage of positive COVID-19 test cases is above 10%. The current positivity rate is more than 13%. According to the Missouri Health Department, within HMC-1 boundaries a total of 93 students have tested positive since March. Eleven of those cases were in the past 14 days.



Data shows there is still significant community spread. With the health and safety of students and staff as a top priority, **HMC-1 will remain in the Red Health Status at the start of the second quarter, which begins October 22, with all students learning virtually.**

The district leadership team will monitor COVID-19 cases each week and will review the guidance of local and state health officials. We will update the HMC-1 community each week and provide at least two weeks notice before moving into the next health status.

We remain hopeful that the number of positive cases will continue to decrease to a level that would allow the district to move into the Yellow Health Status. When the district moves to the Yellow Health Status students will return to buildings in a hybrid model with pre-k through second grade returning first, then third through eighth grade followed by high school.

As a reminder, if you need technology assistance reach out to ipadhelp@hickmanmills.org or macbookhelp@hickmanmills.org. Meals are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More information about meals can be found [here](#).

Resources including child care and financial assistance are available on the [website](#).

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work together through all the challenges the pandemic presents.