



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107
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March 12, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Buchanan Community Schools learned today that *a student that attends Ottawa Elementary School, two students that attend Buchanan High School, and a district staff member that works at Buchanan High School have tested positive for COVID-19.* The students and staff member are in self-quarantine. *These cases are the result of outside of school contact, not from being in the classrooms.* Due to federal health privacy laws, information regarding the students' and staff member identities cannot be released. Please respect the students' and staff member's privacy during this difficult time.

In working through the contact tracing process, the Health Department has confirmed that when we are tracing a person's contact that we look at anyone who has been within 6 feet of a confirmed, positive case for 15 minutes, even if that person is wearing a mask. Per the Berrien County Health Department, for the safety of all people, any student or staff member who falls into the above category is required to be quarantined for 10 days. There were no additional families directly impacted by this news.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends contacting your doctor if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and other symptoms, such as coughing or difficulty breathing. More information can be found at Berrien County Health Department. In addition, please take social distancing seriously: avoid crowds, stay at home, and maintain at least a six-foot distance from other people.

Please remember, if a student or staff member is sick and has taken a COVID-19 test, they are not to return to school until the results are in. If the results are positive, they will need to quarantine. If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, the student or staff member and all household members of the positive case are to immediately be excluded from school and are to quarantine.

We will continue to provide updates as needed. You can access all of the district's related communication by visiting our website at www.buchananschools.com. If you have questions, please contact your building administrator.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we will get through these challenging times. As you know, the well-being of our students, staff, and families, is our number one priority.

Please join me in sending healing thoughts to our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Robinson".

Patricia Robinson
Superintendent