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November 30, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Buchanan Community Schools learned today that *a student that attends Ottawa Elementary School and a student attending Buchanan High School have tested positive for COVID-19*. The students are in isolation. Due to federal health privacy laws, information regarding their identity cannot be released. Please respect their privacy during this difficult time.

In working through the contact tracing process, the Health Department has confirmed that a close contact is a person who: is within 6 feet of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 for a cumulative of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. The health department may determine that other variables lead to an individual being a close contact depending on unique circumstances. Per the Berrien County Health Department, for the safety of all people, any unvaccinated student or staff member who falls into the above category is required to be quarantined for 10 days. If the vaccinated close contact begins to show COVID symptoms, they should be tested for COVID-19 and isolate. All families directly impacted by this news have been contacted by either Buchanan Community Schools staff or the county health department.

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 the 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 they should not come to school. If they are sick and have 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 unvaccinated 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,

Patricia Robinson
Superintendent