



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107
(269) 695-8401 · Fax (269) 695-8450 · www.buchananschools.com

December 14, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

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

Universal Masking Present (e.g. required masking):

- Fully Vaccinated students/staff do NOT quarantine (even in close contact situation)
- 3 ft to 6 ft distance, NO quarantine required (parent notification recommended)
- Under 3 ft, quarantine required per options as follows:
 - **Phase 1.** when there is 1 case or under in the classroom in a 10 day period: No quarantine required, must complete daily health screening, exclude if symptoms begin. (parent notification recommended)
 - **Phase 2.** If a 2nd case is identified in a classroom within a 10 day period from the first the following quarantine options apply:
 - 10 days past last day of exposure; or
 - 7 days past last day of exposure AND a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7; or
 - “test to stay”, testing for the first 7 days past exposure and receiving negative tests each day.

Universal Masking NOT Present (masking optional):

- Fully Vaccinated students/staff do NOT quarantine (even in close contact situation)
- Quarantine applied to all in 6 ft distance for a cumulative of 15 minutes in a 24 hour period;
- Quarantine Options:
 - 10 days past last day of exposure; or
 - 7 days past last day of exposure AND a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7; students return on the 8th day

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 and staff member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Robinson
Superintendent