



Superintendent of Schools  
Phone: 269-695-8401 Fax: 269-695-8450  
401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

January 21, 2022

Dear Buchanan Families,

As you know and have experienced, COVID-19 has caused us to live in an ever-changing landscape. Our district is making adjustments quite regularly to keep students learning in-person, in a healthy and safe environment. One new adjustment to our mitigation strategies is the change in the quarantining or removal from school guidelines, which is stated below.

While our intent is to move to a lesser mitigation strategy, what we are experiencing in schools has indicated the need to **continue with masking in schools during the school day**. We will review our numbers in two weeks to plan our next steps and will inform you of changes or extensions.

Included at the bottom are our current quarantine and isolation numbers to date. Our numbers so far this month have either exceeded or are close to exceeding other monthly totals at each building. Although our positive cases are higher, because we are in a masked setting we are able to offer in-person learning with few remote pauses and keep healthy students in schools.

The Berrien County Health Department has updated the guidance for schools to use as we navigate the handling of close contacts and positive COVID cases.

We have moved to a standard of 5 days for isolation and 5 days for quarantine rather than 10 days. These guidelines will go into effect **Monday, January 24, 2022**.

**Below you will find the quarantine/isolation guidelines:**

**Isolation Guidelines (for students/staff who have symptoms or have tested positive):**

Students, teachers & staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms should isolate regardless of vaccination status:

- Isolate at home for days 0-5 days (day "0" is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for students, teachers & staff who do not have symptoms); monitor for symptoms days 6-10. Return to school or work if symptoms improve days 6-10 while wearing a well-fitted mask **or**
- Stay home for 10 days if unwilling/unable to wear a mask.

**Quarantine Guidelines (for close contacts):**

- Fully Vaccinated students/staff exposed to COVID-19 do not need to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms
- Unvaccinated close contacts in a masked setting exposed to COVID-19 do not need to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms
- Unvaccinated close contacts in an unmasked setting exposed to COVID-19 will need to (choose an option):
  - **QUARANTINE\*** - Days 1-5 and test on Day 5. Student should continue masking for Days 6-10 **OR**
  - **TEST TO STAY** - Student will test every other day for six days following exposure and wear a mask for Days 1-10 **OR**



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- **MASK TO STAY\*** - When testing is unavailable and student has no symptoms, they may stay in school if they correctly and consistently wear a well-fitted mask (1) **OR**
- **HOME QUARANTINE** - Student will quarantine at home for full 10 days

In following [Buchanan Community School's Return to Lean Plan](#) which states, "*the district will follow the most current isolation and quarantine guidelines available*", the district will move to a standard of 5 days for isolation and five days quarantine. The Return to Learn plan will reflect these updates.

**TEST TO STAY:** test every other day for 6 days (days 3 and 5) following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a [well-fitted mask](#). Test to Stay COVID testing is provided at Berrien RESA Front Lobby located at 711 Saint Joseph Ave., Berrien Springs, MI 49103; Monday - Friday 6:30am-7:45am, no appointment needed. Store bought rapid tests are also allowed.

Please understand the pandemic is constantly evolving so expect additional revisions and changes as the need arises.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to make changes needed to keep our district and students moving forward.

Educationally yours,

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

Patricia L. Robinson  
Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools



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## **Resources**

[COVID-19 Student/Staff Exposure Flow Chart and Definitions](#)

[Isolation and Quarantine FAQs](#)

[Mask Up Right Diagram](#)

## **Definitions**

\*Students and staff should monitor symptoms throughout the quarantine period (days 1-5). If symptoms develop, test immediately. Day “0” is the day of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher, or staff.

\*\*Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six if they have no symptoms and can wear a mask for five additional days.

1. Well-fitting mask as defined by the CDC is a multi-layer cloth, surgical mask or KN/N95 mask.

2. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

The CDC recommends you seek medical attention immediately if you show any of these signs: Trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

**Close contact:** Close contact to someone who is positive with COVID-19 48 hours prior to symptom onset/positive test date through the last day of positive person’s isolation. If students are masked, a close contact is within three feet of the sick individual. If they are unmasked, a close contact is within six feet of the sick individual.

**Isolation:** When a person who is sick, is asked to stay home and limit interactions with others, even people they live with.

**Quarantine:** When a person who is not sick is told to stay home because they have been exposed to someone who is sick.

**Fully vaccinated:** 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. CDC now recommends booster shots at 5 months after the completion of the primary series of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for those aged 12 and older or two months after the J&J vaccine.



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## Positive Cases

Positive Cases	August	September	October	November	December	January
Ottawa	0	0	0	9	5	8
Moccasin	0	4	3	5	4	10
Buchanan Middle	0	0	1	7	10	17
Buchanan High	1	9	1	5	19	16

## Quarantine

Quarantined	August	September	October	November	December	January
Ottawa	2	1	3	84	0	0
Moccasin	0	1	36	39	1	16
Buchanan Middle	0	2	30	81	4	0
Buchanan High	18	10	1	23	34	0