



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

February 4, 2022

Dear Buchanan Families,

Our January 21, 2022 letter indicated that we would review our numbers in two weeks and inform you of our next steps. Our two-week data (shown below) does show a decrease in positive cases overall. Therefore starting **Monday, February 7, 2022**, we will move to masks optional for all schools.

We will review our numbers to make informed decisions as relates to mitigation strategies that keep our environment safe.

Below you will find the positive case/exposure guidelines:

Students/Staff who have symptoms or have tested positive:

Students, teachers & staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms shall be excluded for five (5) days from the first sign of [COVID-19 Symptoms](#). They may return to school/work on day six (6) if they are symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

Exposure Guidelines (for close contacts):

- The District will inform parents/guardians of the school related COVID-19 exposures
- Students or staff who are considered close contacts will need to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms
- Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per
 - [PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases](#)
 - Students and/or staff members exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 5 days unless a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note stating the student may return to school is provided to school authorities.
 - *Fever (temp over 100.4) or feeling feverish/chill*
 - *Cough*
 - *Sore throat*
 - *Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)*
 - *Muscle or body aches*
 - *Headache*
 - *Fatigue (tiredness)*
 - *Vomiting and diarrhea*
 - *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
 - *New loss of taste or smell*

We will continue to update you as the need arises and thank you for your support and cooperation as we work to provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

Educationally yours,

Patricia L. Robinson
Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools



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*Test to Stay COVID testing is locations are provided below - no appointment needed. Store bought rapid tests are also allowed.

COVID-19 Test-To-Stay Locations

For students and school district employees only.

Testing sites are open Monday - Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. (unless otherwise posted).

Last test will be administered at 7:45 a.m.

Locations:

- Berrien RESA Administrative Center**
711 St. Joseph Avenue, Berrien Springs, (269) 471-7725
- St. Joseph Public Schools Administrative Center**
2580 S. Cleveland Avenue, St. Joseph, (269) 926-3100
- Niles Community Schools Administration Center**
2120 20th Place, Niles, (269) 683-9532

Questions? Please contact your student's building principal.
Staff should contact their Human Resource officer or supervisor for more information.

BCHD Resources

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

[Isolation and Quarantine FAQs](#)

[Mask Up Right Diagram](#)

Number of Positive Cases					
Week of	BHS	BMS	MES	OES	District
1/17/22-1/23/22	16	8	6	13	0
1/24/22-1/30/22	10	5	8	3	1
1/31/22-2/6/22	1	0	2	1	0

Number of Students/Staff Excluded from school					
Week of	BHS	BMS	MES	OES	District
1/17/22-1/23/22	0	0	0	0	0
1/24/22-1/30/22	0	0	0	0	0
1/31/22-2/6/22	0	0	0	0	0