



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107
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November 16, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued a new mandate for the state of Michigan to help slow the COVID-19 epidemic. *Included in this mandate is direction for all high schools to suspend in person learning until December 8.* All BCS students currently in remote learning will continue with the same learning procedures as prior to the new mandate.

Beginning this Wednesday, November 18th, all Buchanan High School CTE classes will be remote under the same schedule as the general education classes.

BCS buildings will only be open to those BHS students needing internet, K-12 ELL support, K-12 special education support, health care and mental health services. Please contact the appropriate BCS staff member/teacher if your student is in need of an appointment for services.

All athletic and extracurricular activities are put on hold until further notice. This includes all sports practices, games, events, band sectionals, school clubs and activities. *Any athletic contact between athletes and coaches should be done virtually.*

Buchanan Community Schools has also learned today that *a teacher and staff member at Ottawa Elementary* have tested positive for COVID-19. The staff members are currently in self-quarantine. Due to federal health privacy laws, information regarding the staff member's identity cannot be released. Please respect the 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 14 days. All families directly impacted by this news will be contacted by Buchanan Community Schools.

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.

We will continue to provide updates as needed. You can access all of the district's related communication by visiting our website at <https://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 staff members.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Robinson
Superintendent