



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

In-person learning has been shown to provide the greatest benefit to students, and ensuring this can happen consistently and safely during the upcoming school year has been deemed a priority for Berrien County Schools.

The *2021-2022 Return to Learn Plan* provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring health and safety for students and staff in Berrien County. This plan was collaboratively developed by Berrien County Superintendents with the support of the Berrien County Health Department to ensure that all Berrien County School Districts have an aligned and detailed plan for a successful return to the classroom this fall.

Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants and availability of vaccination for younger age groups.

Supporting Documents:

- [BCHD Interim Guidance for Schools \(Released July 12, 2021; Updated 8-9-2021\)](#)

Indicators for Community Transmission:

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

* The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) determines the community transmission level using multiple factors. To learn more about the determination levels please visit the [Berrien County Health Department](#).

BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022



Communities and organizations should update COVID-19 prevention strategies based on:

- Community spread:** Represented by icons of people, with some in red indicating spread.
- Health system capacity:** Represented by a red cross icon.
- Vaccination coverage:** Represented by two adhesive bandages.
- Early detection of COVID-19 increases:** Represented by red virus particles and an upward-pointing arrow.
- Populations at risk:** Represented by icons of people, with some having yellow warning triangles on their heads.

High vaccination + Low community spread = Less need for masking and other prevention strategies

CDC.GOV bit.ly/MMWR72721 MMWR

Based upon the community transmission level, as determined by the BCHD, Buchanan Community Schools, in consultation with BCHD, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff.

The transmission level will be determined at the end of the day of Friday of each week. Any adjustments to mitigation strategies will be implemented on the following Monday and remain in place through the following Sunday.

The district will comply with any and all local, state and federal mandates/orders. Staff, students and visitors have the option to utilize as many mitigation measures as desired including wearing masks.



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

Low Transmission Mitigation Strategies	Moderate Transmission Mitigation Strategies	Substantial Transmission Mitigation Strategies	High Transmission Mitigation Strategies
---	--	---	--

Instructional Format			
In person	In person	In-person instruction - individual schools or classrooms may be moved to remote instruction	Multiple schools are closed and the District may be closed. Remote Instruction in closed buildings
Athletics			
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted and additional health and safety protocols may be put into place	Competitions may be paused; practices focus on skills building with increased social distancing required. Health screening and hygiene in place	Competitions may be paused; practices focus on skills building with increased social distancing required. MHSAA guidelines will be followed
Athletic testing <u>will not be required</u> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body			
Cleaning & Disinfecting			
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting	The district may follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

	procedures may be implemented	implemented in classrooms during the day	implemented in classrooms during the day
Cohorting			
Mixing of students will occur	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings	Mixing of students may be restricted or may not be allowed in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings
COVID Testing			
COVID testing of students or staff <u>will not be required</u> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body			
Extracurriculars & Field Trips			
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled	Suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips will be explored and moved upon if needed	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be expected	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be expected
Face Covering (Masks)			
Face masks are not required but are optional for those who wish to wear a mask	Face masks are not required but are optional for those who wish to wear a mask	Face masks are recommended for Unvaccinated students/staff when indoors.	Face masks are recommended for all students/staff.



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

Recommended for unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised	Recommended for unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised	May consider face masks for all based on local vaccination rates and other indicators	
Food Service			
Normal food service operations	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place
Gatherings and Facility Use			
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be limited	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be limited	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be limited
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette			
Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected ¹	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be encouraged when students	Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette is expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

	leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas ¹	the classroom and other designated areas ¹	or enter the classroom and other designated areas ¹
Isolation and Quarantine (Staff & Students)			
<p>Work with BCHD & RESA to support robust case investigation and contact tracing. Provide educational support for students and families who are impacted by isolation and quarantine. Isolation and quarantine will adhere to local public health requirements and operating procedures. Close contact identification will be supported by the school for classroom and athletic based close contact identification.</p> <p>NOTES: Close contact exclusion will be determined by current school operations and policies currently in place for masking and social distancing. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → If districts do not require face masks → Close contact with 6 ft of positive individual will be quarantined for 10 days from last date of contact. Fully vaccinated individuals do not quarantine unless symptomatic. → If districts require face masks → Close contacts within 3 ft of positive individual will be quarantined for 10 days from the last date of contact. Individuals 3 to 6 ft may continue to attend school as long as they do not have symptoms. Fully vaccinated individuals are not quarantined unless symptomatic. 			
Meetings and Conferences			
In-district/out of district meetings and conferences will be permitted	In-district/out of district meetings and conferences will be permitted	In-district/out of district meetings and conferences may be limited or may be suspended	In-district/out of district meetings and conferences may be limited or may be suspended
Offices			
District and building offices will be open for normal school	District and building offices will be open for normal school	District and building offices will remain open. Prioritize	District and building offices will remain open. Prioritize



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings	business. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings	visits to minimize office visitor traffic. No building access beyond the office will be permitted. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place	visits to minimize office visitor traffic. No building access beyond the office will be permitted. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place
Remote/Virtual Learning			
Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible	Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible	If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure will be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure. Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible	If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure will be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure. Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible
Social Distancing			
Feasible social distancing measures in place.	Additional Social Distancing measures may be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc. may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements	Additional Social Distancing measures may be implemented. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements	Additional Social Distancing measures may be implemented. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

Staff Health Screening			
<p>Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work</p> <p>Daily Wellness Self-Check</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</p>	<p>Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work and follow the established protocols</p> <p>Daily Wellness Self-Check</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</p>	<p>Staff members will be required to complete district established protocols</p> <p>Daily Wellness Self-Check</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</p>	<p>Staff members will be required to complete district established protocols</p> <p>Daily Wellness Self-Check</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</p>
Student Health Screening			
<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. See student illness section</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. See student illness section</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. See student illness section</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. See student illness section</p>



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

Student Illness			
<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (Policy Link / Administrative Guideline Link)</p> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills ● Cough ● Sore throat ● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion) ● Muscle or body aches ● Headaches ● Fatigue (tiredness) ● Vomiting and diarrhea <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (Policy Link / Administrative Guideline Link)</p> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills ● Cough ● Sore throat ● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion) ● Muscle or body aches ● Headaches ● Fatigue (tiredness) ● Vomiting and diarrhea <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (Policy Link / Administrative Guideline Link)</p> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills ● Cough ● Sore throat ● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion) ● Muscle or body aches ● Headaches ● Fatigue (tiredness) ● Vomiting and diarrhea <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (Policy Link / Administrative Guideline Link)</p> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills ● Cough ● Sore throat ● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion) ● Muscle or body aches ● Headaches ● Fatigue (tiredness) ● Vomiting and diarrhea <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are</p>



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

<p>strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell 	<p>strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell 	<p>strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell 	<p>strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell
Transportation			
<p>Normal Transportation Operations. <i>*Adhere to CDC order for facemask requirements which requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</i></p>	<p>Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented. <i>*Adhere to CDC order for facemask requirements which requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</i></p>	<p>Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented. <i>*Adhere to CDC order for facemask requirements which requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</i></p>	<p>Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented. <i>*Adhere to CDC order for facemask requirements which requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</i></p>



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

Vaccinations			
No matter which color indicator Berrien County is in, the district encourages staff and students to become vaccinated. The district is <u>NOT</u> requiring staff or students to be vaccinated.			

¹ - Hand washing and proper covering of the mouth/nose area when coughing/sneezing will be taught in all grades Prek -12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Hand washing/hand sanitizing and proper covering of the mouth/nose area when coughing/sneezing will be encouraged at all times.