



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107
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September 1, 2021

Dear Families and Staff:

Today, the Berrien County Health Department issued [an indoor mask mandate for students in grades pre K-12](#). This is inclusive of all staff, students, guests, etc. regardless of vaccination status, effective Monday, September 6, 2021. Buchanan Community Schools will follow the Health Department's Order until it is lifted. As a public school, we are required to follow all mandates by our local, state, and federal entities. We will also continue to provide weekly mitigation plan updates to you every Friday via the School Messenger system.

The order in full is attached for you [here](#). We have also included the following support documents should they be helpful to you:

- [Why a Public Health Order for Masking, extended content \(summary points and data\)](#)
- [FAQ on Public Health Order](#)
- [Research on Benefits of Masking](#)
- You can also find many of these resources, as well as the press release on the BCHD Website [HERE](#).

This order requires that:

1. Educational Institutions ensure that children in pre-kindergarten (pre-K) through grade twelve (12), regardless of vaccination status, consistently and properly wear a face mask covering both nose and mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.
2. Educational Institutions ensure that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, providing service to any child in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, properly and consistently wear a face mask while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.

The Order will remain in effect until the county transmission levels have stabilized in moderate or low categories for a period of 21 consecutive days and no increases in hospitalizations or deaths have been observed during that same period of time.

While we understand there are differing views regarding the mandate we ask that you help us to continue to provide educational environments that are safe, supportive, and respectful.

Reminder: There is no school on Friday, September 3, and Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Robinson
Superintendent