



## BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

*Released 7/12/21; Revised 8/9/21; Revised/Approved 10/18/21*

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](#)

### Indicators for Community Transmission:

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
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\* 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](#).

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

- Community spread**: Represented by icons of people.
- Health system capacity**: Represented by a red cross icon.
- Vaccination coverage**: Represented by bandage icons.
- Early detection of COVID-19 increases**: Represented by virus icons and an upward arrow.
- Populations at risk**: Represented by icons of people with warning signs.

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

CDC.GOV [bit.ly/MMWR72721](https://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 of 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 as soon as feasible or at a date determined by local, state, or federal administration.



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The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders. When there are no local, state, or federal mandates/orders, staff, students, and visitors will have the option to utilize as many mitigation measures as desired including wearing masks.

<b>Low Transmission</b> (based on school/district data) <b>Mitigation Strategies</b>	<b>Moderate Transmission</b> (based on school/district data) <b>Mitigation Strategies</b>	<b>Substantial Transmission</b> (based on school/district data) <b>Mitigation Strategies</b>	<b>High Transmission</b> (based on school/district data) <b>Mitigation Strategies</b>
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<b>Instructional Format</b>			
In-person	In-person	In-person instruction - individual schools or classrooms may be moved to remote instruction.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	Continuation of in-person learning. The district or specified schools could move to distance/virtual learning.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Athletics</b>			



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<p>Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted.</p>	<p>Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted and additional health and safety protocols may be put into place.</p>	<p>Competitions may be paused; practices may focus on skills building with increased social distancing required. Health screening and hygiene in place.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>Competitions may be paused; practices may focus on skills building with increased social distancing. MHSAA guidelines /requirements will be followed.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
<p>Athletic testing <b>is not required</b> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body. The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>			
<p><b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</b></p>			
<p>The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures</p>	<p>The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented.</p>	<p>The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>



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<b>Cohorting</b>			
<p>Mixing of students will occur.</p>	<p>Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.</p>	<p>Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>Mixing of students may be restricted or may not be allowed in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
<b>COVID Testing</b>			
<p style="text-align: center;">COVID testing of students or staff <b>is not required</b> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body. When available testing may be an option to stay in school after exposure or to shorten the length of quarantine. The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>			
<b>Extracurriculars &amp; Field Trips</b>			
<p>Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled</p>	<p>Suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips will be explored and moved upon if needed</p>	<p>Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be expected</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and</p>	<p>Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be expected and determined by district leadership</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and</p>



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		federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Face Covering (Masks)</b>			
Face masks are optional however, masks are strongly recommended by the CDC	Face masks are optional however, masks are strongly recommended by the CDC	Face masks are optional however, masks are strongly recommended by the CDC The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	Face masks may be required for all staff/students and visitors based on local school/district-specific internal data. *If no mandates are in effect, schools will move to face masks when the school leaders deem it necessary to continue in-person learning based on school/district data.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Food Service</b>			
Normal foodservice operations	Normal foodservice operations. Additional health	Normal foodservice operations. Additional health	Normal foodservice operations. Additional health



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	and safety protocols will be put in place.	and safety protocols may be put in place.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	and safety protocols may be put in place.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Gatherings and Facility Use</b>			
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.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be required. Outside agency use of facilities may be limited.  The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</b>			
Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected and additional opportunities for handwashing may be	Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for handwashing may be available throughout	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for handwashing may be



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	<p>available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be encouraged when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.</p>	<p>the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
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### Isolation and Quarantine (Staff & Students)

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.

NOTES: Close contact exclusion will be determined by current school operations and policies currently in place for masking and social distancing. For example:

- If districts do not require face masks → Close contact with 6 ft of positive individuals will be quarantined for 10 days from the 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.

The district will follow the most current isolation and quarantine guidelines available.

### Meetings and Conferences





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<p>In-district/out of district meetings and conferences will be permitted</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited or suspended.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited or suspended.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
<b>Offices</b>			
<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings.</p>	<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school 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.</p>	<p>District and building offices will remain open. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Building access beyond the office will be used with caution. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>District and building offices will remain open. Schools/district may prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Building access beyond the office will be used with caution as determined by leadership. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
<b>Remote/Virtual Learning</b>			



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<p>Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible.</p>	<p>Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to remote learning opportunities as soon as feasible.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.</p>
<b>Social Distancing</b>			
<p>Feasible social distancing measures are in place.</p>	<p>Additional Social Distancing measures may be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc. may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.</p>	<p>Additional Social Distancing measures may be implemented. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and</p>	<p>Additional Social Distancing measures may be implemented. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.</p> <p>The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and</p>



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		federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.	federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.
<b>Staff Health Screening</b>			
<p>Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Wellness Self-Check</a></p> <p><b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</b></p>	<p>Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work and follow the established protocols</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Wellness Self-Check</a></p> <p><b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</b></p>	<p>Staff members may be required to complete district established protocols</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Wellness Self-Check</a></p> <p><b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</b></p>	<p>Staff members may be required to complete district established protocols</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Wellness Self-Check</a></p> <p><b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</b></p>
<b>Student Health Screening</b>			
<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b> See student illness section.</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b> See student illness section.</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b> See student illness section.</p>	<p>Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b> See student illness section.</p>



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Student Illness			
<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (<a href="#">Policy Link</a> / <a href="#">Administrative Guideline Link</a>)</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"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (<a href="#">Policy Link</a> / <a href="#">Administrative Guideline Link</a>)</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"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (<a href="#">Policy Link</a> / <a href="#">Administrative Guideline Link</a>)</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"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19</p>	<p>Parents are not to send children to school given our communicable disease policy (<a href="#">Policy Link</a> / <a href="#">Administrative Guideline Link</a>)</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"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19</p>



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<p>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"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>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"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>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"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>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"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>			
<p>Normal Transportation Operations.  <i>*Adhere to CDC order for facemask requirements which <b>requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</b></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 <b>requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</b></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 <b>requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</b></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 <b>requires masks to be worn on all public and private schools buses</b></i></p>



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<b>Vaccinations</b>			
No matter which color indicator Berrien County is in, the district encourages staff, students, and parents to become vaccinated. The district shall comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders when they are in effect.			

The school district is required to follow all local, state, and federal requirements or mandates.