



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107  
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December 10, 2021

Dear Buchanan High School Families & Staff,

Since the start of the school year, our goal has been to keep our students healthy and to keep our doors open for in-person learning. At our Board meeting in October, I shared our response plan as we continue to work through the myriad of issues this pandemic has brought. During this meeting it was shared that we will move to masks based on specific school data. Buchanan High School will move to universal masks when there are five reported positive COVID-19 cases within two weeks.

We are seeing an increase in COVID cases at Buchanan High School. Our total quarantines for grades 8-12 since November 29, 2021 have been 103. Some students finished a quarantine session and returned to quarantine after being exposed a second time. Throughout this pandemic, our goal has been to provide a healthy learning environment and to keep students at school in-person as long as possible.

#### **Universal Masking to begin December 13, 2021 at Buchanan High School**

When students and staff return next week, they will return to school universally masked. The students, staff and visitors at Buchanan High School will remain masked through December 17, 2021. Based on our goals, we are moving to this strategy to:

- Minimize the number of students who are quarantined
- Provide continuous in person learning
- Minimize the need to move to virtual learning except under extenuating circumstances (confirmed outbreak, local/state/federal requirement).

Below you will find the current masking guidelines for schools with universal masking requirements and those with masking as an option.

#### **Universal Masking Present (e.g. required masking):**

- Fully Vaccinated students/staff do NOT quarantine (even in close contact situation)
- 3 ft to 6 ft distance, NO quarantine required (parent notification recommended)
- Under 3 ft, quarantine required per options as follows:
  - **Phase 1.** when there is 1 case or under in the classroom in a 10 day period: No quarantine required, must complete daily health screening, exclude if symptoms begin. (parent notification recommended)
  - **Phase 2.** If a 2<sup>nd</sup> case is identified in a classroom within a 10 day period from the first the following quarantine options apply:
    - 10 days past last day of exposure; or
    - 7 days past last day of exposure AND a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7; or
    - “test to stay”, testing for the first 7 days past exposure and receiving negative tests each day.

**Universal Masking NOT Present (masking optional):**

- Fully Vaccinated students/staff do NOT quarantine (even in close contact situation)
- Quarantine applied to all in 6 ft distance for a cumulative of 15 minutes in a 24 hour period;
- Quarantine Options:
  - 10 days past last day of exposure; or
  - 7 days past last day of exposure AND a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7; students return on the 8th day

Berrien RESA located at 711 St. Joseph Avenue in Berrien Springs offers testing for students and staff of all Berrien County Schools. Buchanan is working on providing testing locally. We will let you know when a local testing option will be available.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Robinson', written in a cursive style.

Patricia Robinson  
Superintendent