



Superintendent of Schools
Phone: 269-695-8401 Fax: 269-695-8450
401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

December 30, 2021

Buchanan Families,

The holiday season is nearing an end and I hope you and your family were able to enjoy this time. We are returning to school with the start of a new semester and renewed energy to make the remainder of the year successful.

When staff and students return on January 3, 2022, we will return with masks in grades PreK-12. Our data collection between November 29th - December 17th was clear, our schools that had universal masking in place after the Thanksgiving holiday had fewer positive cases and fewer students out of school due to quarantine. Universal masking will continue through January 21, 2022.

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 2nd case is identified in a classroom within a 10 day period from the first the following quarantine options apply (**quarantine options will be updated based on most recent guidelines**):
 - 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 or
 - “test to stay”, testing for the first 7 days past exposure and receiving negative tests each day.
 - Testing location: Berrien RESA located at 711 St. Joseph Avenue in Berrien Springs offers testing for students and staff of all Berrien County Schools.

Please remember, if a student or staff member is sick they should not come to school. If they are sick and have taken a COVID-19 test, they are not to return to school until the results are in. If the results are positive, they will need to quarantine. If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, the student or staff member and all unvaccinated household members of the positive case are to immediately be excluded from school and are to quarantine.

We will keep you posted on updates as there are constant changes in guidelines. Enjoy the remainder of your break and we look forward to seeing students and staff Monday, January 3, 2022.

Educationally yours,

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

Patricia L. Robinson
Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools