



401 W. Chicago St. · Buchanan, MI 49107  
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January 4, 2022

Dear Families and Staff,

Buchanan Community Schools learned that *2 staff members at Ottawa Elementary School, 2 students and 1 staff member at Buchanan Middle School, a staff member at Buchanan High School, have tested positive for COVID-19.* The students and staff are in isolation. Due to federal health privacy laws, information regarding their identity cannot be released. Please respect their privacy during this difficult time.

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

- Fully Vaccinated healthy 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.

**All families directly impacted by this news have been contacted by either Buchanan Community Schools staff or the county health department.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends contacting your doctor if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and other symptoms, such as coughing or difficulty breathing. More information can be found at the Berrien County Health Department. In addition, please take social distancing seriously: avoid crowds, stay at home, and maintain at least a six-foot distance from other people.

**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 continue to provide updates as needed. You can access all of the district’s related communication by visiting our website at [www.buchananschools.com](http://www.buchananschools.com). If you have questions, please contact your building administrator.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we will get through these challenging times. As you know, the well-being of our students, staff, and families is our number one priority.

Please join me in sending healing thoughts to our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Robinson  
Superintendent