



March 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The administration at Berrien Springs Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. To date, the school district has adhered to all mitigation strategies and safety protocol guidance recommended by the Governor, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Berrien County Health Department. The most recent MDHHS Emergency Order, requiring the testing of all spring athletes, has created a number of concerns and logistical challenges for our students and staff. The Berrien Springs Public Schools administration does not fully support this requirement based on the following rationale:

1. We believe the administration of the required testing will be excessively time consuming, lacks the appropriate staff training, and is not manageable given the volume of data input required for each spring athlete.
2. We believe schools should have received more than two weeks advance notice for a testing requirement of this scope and magnitude. Our ability to plan and communicate has been considerably compromised given the shortness of advance notification.
3. We believe there needs to be additional rationale and explanation to help schools and school stakeholders understand the need to test all athletes competing in outdoor sports considering that the majority of competing athletes will be naturally socially distanced and wearing facemasks.
4. We believe schools should be provided with some degree of assistance to administer a testing process that school staff are unfamiliar with and is relatively new to the state of Michigan.
5. We believe if testing of athletes is absolutely necessary that it is reasonable to believe only those athletes competing in contact sports should be required to test.
6. We believe the current testing process should be revisited with consideration given to creating some flexibility for testing other than the weekly requirement for every spring athlete.

Sincerely,

Berrien Springs Public Schools Administrative Staff  
David Eichberg, Superintendent  
Ryan Pesce, High School Principal  
Alan Alsbro, High School Athletic Director