



January 16, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today, January 16, 2021, the district was notified of a Sylvester Elementary staff member who has been identified as a confirmed case with the COVID virus. Berrien Springs Public Schools has completed the contact tracing process. As a result of the contact tracing process, 3 additional Sylvester Elementary staff members and one Sylvester Elementary student will be quarantined. There is no evidence of transmission of the virus at Sylvester Elementary school.

Due to the required quarantine of 4 Sylvester Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade staff, all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be doing remote learning from home starting Tuesday, January 19 through Monday, January 25. Detailed information will be communicated to Sylvester Elementary parents, students and staff by the building principal. There is no school for all students on Monday, January 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

The coordination and communication between our school district and the Berrien County Health Department is an ongoing testimony to the significant amount of planning and preparation our staff and BCHD staff have continued to invest in response to COVID-19 within our school district. We will continue to work closely with the health department to provide them with accurate information needed to assist in future COVID-19 case investigations and the contact tracing process. The school district appreciates the collaborative support and guidance from our county health department.

The district continues to implement the safety protocols and procedural guidelines recommended by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, the Berrien County Health Department and the Berrien Springs Return to School Roadmap. A copy of our district's Roadmap is available on the school district's website at [www.homeoftheshamrocks.org](http://www.homeoftheshamrocks.org).

Our school district will continue to follow all recommended and necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at all times. Please be reminded of the importance of remaining vigilant in practicing the following safety protocols to mitigate the spread of all illness:

- Wearing a facial covering
- Practicing frequent hand washing
- Remaining home when sick
- Parents are reminded to screen students daily for potential symptoms of illness before sending them to school
- Staff are reminded to complete the daily health screener before reporting to school

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support healthy practices at home and in your personal activities as we respond to these events in our school district and community. I continue to be very proud of the way our staff and students demonstrate flexibility and cooperation during this very challenging time.

Sincerely,

David Eichberg, Superintendent