



November 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last evening, Governor Whitmer held a press conference to announce the details of a new Emergency Order from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. Beginning Wednesday, November 16 through Tuesday, December 8 all public school districts are required to transition from in-person to remote learning for students in grades 9-12. Students in grades PreK through 8 will continue with their normal school day as scheduled. Berrien Springs Public Schools will engage in daily monitoring of conditions for any significant changes that may require a transition to remote learning at our elementary or middle school buildings. Our families will be notified in advance if it is necessary to transition to remote learning at any of our other district buildings.

During this transition, please understand that some programming and supports may not be exactly the same at each of our buildings. Our staff will be addressing the learning and social/emotional needs of all our students which may differ from grade-to-grade and among different age groups. Each building principal will be providing you with communication specific to each district school and the learning needs of those students.

Today, the district received notification of two high school students who have been identified as confirmed cases of COVID-19. Due to the increase in COVID related cases in Berrien County, the Berrien County Health Department is relying on school district staff to conduct the contact tracing and communication process. This case investigation is not yet entirely complete as our staff continue to work diligently to do a thorough and complete investigation. We will continue to work closely with the Berrien County Health Department on all COVID related case investigations, communication, data collection and reporting.

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.

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, in the community and in your personal daily activities as we respond to these events in our school district. I continue to appreciate the way our staff and students demonstrate flexibility and cooperation during this very challenging time.

Sincerely,

David Eichberg, Superintendent