



May 12, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since the start of the school year, Berrien County school districts have worked very closely with the Berrien County Health Department to develop COVID-19 mitigation plans as well as monitor and report probable and positive cases. Thanks to this strong partnership from the very beginning of the pandemic, schools have successfully been able to slow the spread of the virus in the education community with the use of COVID-19 risk mitigation measures such as masking, routine hygiene practices, and cohorting. The transmission rate within school classrooms has been minimal throughout this school year. With all the strong mitigation measures in place, the Berrien County Health Department has updated its guidelines relative to quarantining students in classroom settings (attached). Effective today, May 12, **instead of quarantining students within a 6-foot radius of a positive case, only students within a 3-foot radius of a positive case will be quarantined. This change only impacts students in the classroom setting. All health and safety measures as outlined in our Return to School Roadmap plan will remain in place; mask wearing, social distancing (6 feet), athletic testing, cohorting, and symptom checking by staff and students. This guidance will be in effect through the end of the school year.**

As always, the Berrien County Health Department closely monitors recommendations from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with careful consideration toward the specific needs and experiences of the residents of Berrien County. Should the Health Department make additional modifications to its COVID-19 health and safety guidance relative to the school setting, we will inform you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Eichberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Eichberg, Superintendent