



9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI 49106 Phone (269) 465-5432 Fax (269) 466-0221

October 26, 2020

Dear Bridgman Public Schools Stakeholders,

From the beginning I have stated that I will be open and transparent with all of you as we navigate these uncharted waters, all while maintaining the privacy rights of our students, staff and families.

On Sunday evening, the Berrien County Health Department notified myself that one of our students has tested positive for COVID-19. Following our established protocols and because of our strict attendance remittance policy, this student has not been in school for the past ten (10) days. Thus, NO students or staff have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus by this individual.

The Berrien County Health Department has concluded that ***NO BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF OR STUDENTS WERE EXPOSED OR ARE CONSIDERED A CLOSE CONTACT.*** As a result, there will be no need to quarantine any students and/or staff or temporarily close a school building.

Reminder – In accordance with Board of Education policies, our Return to Learn plans and direction from local, state and federal health officials, if your student has any of the following symptoms, **you must keep them home from school!**

- temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- sore throat
- an uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- the onset of a severe headache
- diarrhea and/or vomiting
- unusual belly pain
- new loss of taste or smell

IMPORTANT: Based on Board policies and written guidance from local, state and federal health officials, in order for your child to return to school after experiencing one or more of the above symptoms a parent/guardian must provide a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note releasing the student to attend school. If you do not provide a negative COVID-19 test result or doctor's note, then your student will be excluded from Bridgman Public Schools for ten (10) days from the first day they had symptoms. They must also be fever free for 24 hours and/or their symptoms have improved **after** the ten (10) day exclusion period before they can return.



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Please continue to follow all COVID-19 health and safety recommendations from the Berrien County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Cleaning your hands often, with either soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Putting distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet)
- Covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others
- Covering your cough and sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean your hands after throwing away the tissue.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your students building principal or myself.

We must all partner together to continue with face-to-face instruction and keep our staff and students safe and healthy.

Educationally yours,

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent