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

January 21, 2022

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.

Over the past two days, we were notified that five (5) Bridgman Elementary students, three (3) F.C. Reed Middle School students, five (5) Bridgman High School students and three (3) Bridgman staff members tested positive for COVID-19. Following our established protocols for this situation, we have been in contact with the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) and are working to support all their needs for follow-up with those individuals who may have had close contact with this student.

When someone tests positive for COVID-19, those individuals identified as close contacts to the positive person will be notified about any potential exposure as part of the contact tracing process conducted by the Berrien County Health Department and/or the Bridgman Public School district. Those who had close contact with the individual will be given instructions for a 10-day quarantine past their last date of exposure.

**Through case investigation, we were able to identify twenty-eight (28) additional students and staff who are being identified as close contacts of the positive COVID-19 cases but will not have to quarantine due to the Universal Mask Policy in place. Four (4) students will be placed in quarantine due to an exposure where masking was not present.**

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



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**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.

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.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shane M. Peters'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent