

## RIVER VALLEY SCHOOLS: RETURN TO LEARN PLAN 2021-2022

In-person learning has been shown to provide the greatest benefit to students, and ensuring this can happen consistently and safely during the upcoming school year has been deemed a priority for Berrien County Schools.

The *2021-2022 Return to Learn Plan* provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring health and safety for students and staff in Berrien County. This plan was collaboratively developed by Berrien County Superintendents with the support of the Berrien County Health Department to ensure that all Berrien County School Districts have an aligned and detailed plan for a successful return to the classroom this fall.

*Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants and availability of vaccination for younger age groups.*

**Supporting Documents:**

- [BCHD Interim Guidance for Schools \(Released July 12, 2021\)](#)
- [CDC indicators and thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19](#)

**Mitigation Action Scale:**

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
<i>0 to 9 new cases per 100,000 persons within last 7 days</i>	<i>10 to 49 new cases per 100,000 persons within last 7 days</i>	<i>50 to 99 new cases per 100,000 persons within last 7 days</i>	<i>&gt;100 new cases per 100,000 persons within last 7 days</i>
<i>&lt;5% of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7 days</i>	<i>5% to &lt; 7.9% of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7 days</i>	<i>8% to 9.9% of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7 days</i>	<i>&gt;10% of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7 days</i>

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Instructional Format			
In person	In person	In-person instruction - individual schools or classrooms may be moved to remote instruction	Multiple schools are closed and the District may be closed. Remote Instruction in closed buildings
Athletics			
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted, and additional health and safety protocols put into place. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Competitions may be paused; practices focus on skills building with increased social distancing required. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.  Health screening and hygiene in place.	Athletic practices and competitions will be suspended. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
Athletic testing <b><u>will not be required</u></b> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.			
Cleaning & Disinfecting			
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented in classrooms during the day	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented in classrooms during the day
Cohorting			
Mixing of students will occur.,	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings	Mixing of students will be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings	Mixing of students will be restricted or will not be allowed in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings

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<b>COVID Testing</b>			
COVID testing of students or staff <b><u>will not be required</u></b> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.			
<b>Extracurriculars &amp; Field Trips</b>			
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips should be expected	Extracurricular activities and field trips are suspended. Remote/virtual activities may continue.	Extracurricular activities and field trips are suspended. Remote/virtual activities may continue.
<b>Face Covering (Masks)</b>			
Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will not be required to wear face masks. Face coverings are optional.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will not be required to wear face masks. Face coverings are optional.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may be required to wear face coverings in all areas and for all activities <sup>1</sup>	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will be required to wear face coverings in all areas and for all activities <sup>1</sup>
<b>Food Service</b>			
Normal food service operations	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place.	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place.	Normal food service operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place.
Meal pick-up services will be provided if a building or the district moves to remote instruction.			
<b>Gatherings and Facility Use</b>			
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities will be restricted	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities will be implemented. No outside agency use of facilities will be allowed	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities will be implemented. No outside agency use of facilities will be allowed

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<b>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</b>			
Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected <sup>2</sup>	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected, and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be encouraged when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas <sup>2</sup> .	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas <sup>2</sup> .	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected, and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Isolation and Quarantine (Staff &amp; Students)</b>			
<p>Work with BCHD &amp; RESA to support robust case investigation and contact tracing. Provide educational support for students and families who are impacted by isolation and quarantine. Isolation and quarantine will adhere to local public health requirements and operating procedures. Close contact identification will be supported by the school for classroom and athletic-based close contact identification.</p> <p>NOTES: Close contact exclusion will be determined by current school operations and policies currently in place for masking and social distancing. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No masking required. Close contact with 6 ft of positive individual will be quarantined for 10 days from the last date of contact. Fully vaccinated individuals do not quarantine unless symptomatic.</li> <li>→ Face masks required. Close contacts within 3 ft of positive individual will be quarantined for 10 days from the last date of contact. Individuals 3 to 6 ft may continue to attend school as long as they do not have symptoms. Fully vaccinated individuals do not quarantine unless symptomatic.</li> </ul>			
<b>Meetings and Conferences</b>			
In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.	In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be limited and may be suspended.	Only remote/virtual in-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.

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<b>Offices</b>			
<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings.</p>	<p>District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings.</p>	<p>District and building offices will remain open. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. No building access beyond the office will be permitted. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place.</p>	<p>District and building offices will remain open. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. No building access beyond the office will be permitted. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place.</p>
<b>Remote/Virtual Learning</b>			
<p>Students that the health department quarantines may gain access to live remote learning opportunities after the student is absent for more than 3 consecutive days. The building principal may also approve access to synchronous learning support under special circumstances related to a documented medical diagnosis, medical procedure, or mental health crisis.</p>	<p>Students that the health department quarantines may gain access to live remote learning opportunities after the student is absent for more than 3 consecutive days. The building principal may also approve access to synchronous learning support under special circumstances related to a documented medical diagnosis, medical procedure, or mental health crisis.</p>	<p>If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure will be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure. Students that are quarantined by the health department may gain access to live remote learning opportunities after the student is absent for more than 3 consecutive days. The building principal may also approve access to synchronous learning support under special circumstances related to a documented medical diagnosis, medical procedure, or mental health crisis.</p>	<p>If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure will be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure. Students that the health department quarantines may gain access to live remote learning opportunities after the student is absent for more than 3 consecutive days. The building principal may also approve access to synchronous learning support under special circumstances related to a documented medical diagnosis, medical procedure, or mental health crisis.</p>

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Social Distancing			
Feasible social distancing measures in place.	Additional Social Distancing measures may be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.	Additional Social Distancing measures will be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., will be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.	Additional Social Distancing measures will be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., will be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.
Staff Health Screening			
Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work. <b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.</b>	Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work. <b>DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK</b>	Staff members will be required to complete the electronic <a href="https://misymptomapp.state.mi.us/">https://misymptomapp.state.mi.us/</a> and follow the established protocols.	Staff members will be required to complete the electronic <a href="https://misymptomapp.state.mi.us/">https://misymptomapp.state.mi.us/</a> and follow the established protocols.
Student Health Screening			
Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. <b>DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b>  See student illness section.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. <b>DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b>  See student illness section.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. <b>DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b>  See student illness section.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. <b>DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.</b>  See student illness section.
Student Illness			
Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per <a href="#">PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases.</a>	Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per <a href="#">PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases.</a>	Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per <a href="#">PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases..</a>	Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per <a href="#">PO 8450 - Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases..</a>

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<p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 days unless a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note stating the student may return to school is provided to school authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms shall remain home or excluded from school until the student is symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> </ul> <p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 days unless a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note stating the student may return to school is provided to school authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 days unless a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note stating the student may return to school is provided to school authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>	<p>Students exhibiting the following symptoms which are strong indicators of COVID-19 shall remain home or excluded from school for 10 days unless a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note stating the student may return to school is provided to school authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fever (<i>temp over 100.4</i>) or feeling feverish/chills</li> <li>● Cough</li> <li>● Sore throat</li> <li>● Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)</li> <li>● Muscle or body aches</li> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● Fatigue (tiredness)</li> <li>● Vomiting and diarrhea</li> <li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>● New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>			
Normal Transportation Operations.	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning

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<i>*Adhere to <a href="#">CDC order</a> for facemask requirements</i>	and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.  <i>*Adhere to <a href="#">CDC order</a> for facemask requirements</i>	and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.  <i>*Adhere to <a href="#">CDC order</a> for facemask requirements</i>	and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.  <i>*Adhere to <a href="#">CDC order</a> for facemask requirements</i>
<b>Vaccinations</b>			
No matter which color indicator Berrien County is in, the district encourages staff and students to become vaccinated. The district is <b>NOT</b> requiring staff or students to be vaccinated.			

<sup>1</sup> - It is anticipated that the Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Director of the Berrien County Health Department will issue a Face Covering order for this level of community transmission in which we would have to comply.

<sup>2</sup> - Handwashing and proper covering of the mouth/nose area when coughing/sneezing will be taught in all grades 6 -12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Hand washing/hand sanitizing and proper covering of the mouth/nose area when coughing/sneezing will be encouraged at all times.