

2021-2022 Berrien RESA COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN

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

The *2021-2022 Berrien RESA COVID-19 Learning 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 \(Issued July 12, 2021; Last revised August 9, 2021\)](#)

Indicators for Community Transmission:

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
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* The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) determines the community transmission level using multiple factors. To learn more about the determination levels please visit the [Berrien County Health Department](#).

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The infographic features a dark teal background with a white title and five white boxes. The first box, 'Community spread', shows a group of eight stylized human figures, with four in red and four in grey. The second box, 'Health system capacity', shows a red square with a white cross. The third box, 'Vaccination coverage', shows two orange band-aids. The fourth box, 'Early detection of COVID-19 increases', shows three red virus particles and a yellow arrow pointing up. The fifth box, 'Populations at risk', shows a group of eight stylized human figures, with four in green and four in grey, each with a yellow warning triangle on their chest. Below the boxes, the text reads: 'High vaccination + Low community spread = Less need for masking and other prevention strategies'. At the bottom, there are three logos: 'CDC.GOV', 'bit.ly/MMWR72721', and 'MMWR'.

Communities and organizations should update COVID-19 prevention strategies based on:

- Community spread
- Health system capacity
- Vaccination coverage
- Early detection of COVID-19 increases
- Populations at risk

High vaccination + Low community spread = Less need for masking and other prevention strategies

CDC.GOV bit.ly/MMWR72721 MMWR

Based upon the community transmission level, as determined by the BCHD, Berrien RESA, in consultation with BCHD, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff.

The transmission level will be determined at the end of the day of Friday of each week. Any mitigation strategies adjustments will be made on the following Monday and remain in place through the following Sunday.

The district will comply with any and all local, state and federal mandates/orders.

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Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:

Low Transmission Mitigation Strategies	Moderate Transmission Mitigation Strategies	Substantial Transmission Mitigation Strategies	High Transmission Mitigation Strategies
Instructional Format			
In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instructional will occur.	In-person instruction will occur. Individual schools or classrooms may be moved to remote instruction.	In-person instruction will occur. Individual schools or classrooms may be moved to remote instruction.
Cleaning & Disinfecting			
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures for maintaining health and safety.	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 (not cohorted).	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.	Mixing of students may be restricted or may not be allowed in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.
COVID Testing			
COVID testing of students or staff <u>will not be required</u> unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.			

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Extracurriculars & Field Trips			
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips should be expected.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips should be expected.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips should be expected.
Face Covering (Masks)			
Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will not be required to wear face masks. Face coverings are optional. Recommended for unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised.	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will not be required to wear face masks. Face coverings are optional. Recommended for unvaccinated and/or immunocompromised.	Face masks recommended for unvaccinated students/staff when indoors. ¹ May consider face masks for all at this stage, when six (6) feet social distance cannot be maintained, based on local vaccination rates and other indicators of community transmission.	Face masks recommended for unvaccinated students/staff when indoors. ¹ May consider face masks for all at this stage, when six (6) feet social distance cannot be maintained, based on local vaccination rates and other indicators of community transmission.
Food Service			
*Meal pick-up services will be provided if a classroom, building or the district moves to remote instruction.			
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.	Meals happen in cohorts/classrooms as feasible.
Gatherings and Facility Use			
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency

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	use of facilities may be restricted.	use of facilities may be restricted.	use of facilities may be restricted.
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette			
Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected. ²	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected, and additional opportunities for proper handwashing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be encouraged when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas ² .	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper handwashing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas ² .	Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette is expected, and additional opportunities for proper handwashing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas ² .
Isolation and Quarantine (Staff & Students)			
<p>Work with BCHD & Berrien 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 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"> → If no masking is required: Close contact within 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. → If face mask is 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. 			
Meetings and Conferences			

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<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted. Increased social distancing in meeting space encouraged.</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited and may be suspended (based on regional transmission).</p>	<p>In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited and may be suspended (based on regional transmission).</p>
Offices			
<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 including symptom screening at check-in. 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>
Remote Learning			
<p>Student's that the Berrien County Health Department quarantines may gain access to remote learning opportunities after the school has been notified of the status for quarantine. Please contact your students Program Supervisor if you have questions.</p>	<p>Student's that the Berrien County Health Department quarantines may gain access to remote learning opportunities after the school has been notified of the status for quarantine. Please contact your students Program Supervisor if you have questions.</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 Berrien County Health Department quarantines may gain access to remote learning opportunities after the school has been notified of the status for quarantine.</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 Berrien County Health Department quarantines may gain access to remote learning opportunities after the school has been notified of the status for quarantine.</p>
Social Distancing			

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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 may be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.	Additional social distancing measures may be required. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities etc., may 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. DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.	Staff members should conduct a daily wellness self-check prior to reporting to work. DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.	Staff members will be required to complete district established protocols. DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.	Staff members will be required to complete district established protocols. DO NOT REPORT TO WORK IF YOU ARE SICK.
Student Health Screening			
Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.	Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending student to school. DO NOT SEND STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.
Transportation			
Normal Transportation Operations. <i>*Adhere to CDC order for face mask requirements. At this time face masks are required on all</i>	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.

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<i>public transportation, which includes public school transportation.</i>	<i>*Adhere to CDC order for face mask requirements. At this time face masks are required on all public transportation, which includes public school transportation.</i>	<i>*Adhere to CDC order for face mask requirements. At this time face masks are required on all public transportation, which includes public school transportation.</i>	<i>*Adhere to CDC order for face mask requirements. At this time face masks are required on all public transportation, which includes public school transportation.</i>
Vaccinations			
<p style="text-align: center;">The district encourages all staff and students to become vaccinated regardless of the color classification determined by the Berrien County Health Department.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The district is <u>NOT</u> requiring staff or students to be vaccinated.</p>			
Communication			
<p style="text-align: center;">The district will continue to communicate with families and staff regarding both probable and positive cases of COVID-19 using the School Messenger communication system.</p>			

¹ - The Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Director of the Berrien County Health Department may issue a Face Covering order for this level of community transmission in which we would have to comply.

² - 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.