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Byron Area Schools

September 30, 2021

Dear Byron Area Schools Families,

I'm asking for your help in keeping our students safe, our schools open and our after school programs functioning. **If you, your children, or someone that you come in close contact with, exhibit COVID like symptoms please stay home and keep your children home from school until the symptoms pass.** For a list of COVID-19 symptoms, please click this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

During the past week we've discovered a marked increase in the number of our students, or their family members, who have experienced COVID-19 symptoms and or tested positive. The increase is very concerning. It negatively impacts a student's health, their education because of having to miss in-person instruction, their ability to participate in athletic events, and it presents health risks for our employees. In the event that employees become ill, I'm concerned that we may end up having to return to virtual learning as well as having to cancel after school events; an all too familiar scenario these days.

We've been working with the Shiawassee County Health Department to create a possible solution to keep our students in school and keep everyone safe from contracting COVID-19. We think the following options will work for any student who is deemed a close contact and recommended to quarantine.

- **Option 1.** If the student is vaccinated send her/him to school as usual.
- **Option 2.** Quarantine her/him per the [MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19](#).
- **Option 3.** Transport your student to the high school between 7:00-7:15am where s/he can have a non-invasive nasal swab rapid test each day s/he is quarantined. (Home tests are not permitted). Test results will be known in 15 minutes. Parents/guardians must stay on-site until test results are known. Students arriving after 7:15am will not be tested and must continue quarantining off campus.
 - **If the test is negative, the student may attend school that day and should wear a mask so long as s/he is indoors** (except when eating), including any indoor athletic practices and or/games or other events. Students participating in an outdoor athletic event should wear a mask when not competing. Parents should monitor their child closely for symptoms up to 14 days after close contact.
 - **If a rapid test is positive**, the student may not attend school or any school related event and must isolate for 10 calendar days (asymptomatic) or 14 calendar days (symptomatic) from the date of the positive test.

We respect the rights of individuals to decide for themselves whether or not to wear a mask or get a vaccination. This is why I'm asking for your help in protecting the health and education of our students, as well as the workplace of our employees. Byron is a wonderful place to live and work. Your efforts will go a long way in making sure of it.

Sincerely,

Bob Cassiday, Superintendent