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## Byron Area Schools

September 15, 2021

Dear Byron Area Schools Families,

What I want to share with you is that local health departments are putting the onus back on the local school districts to do the contact tracing and the quarantining of students, along with providing health departments with the students' (and their parents') contact information.

On Sept. 10 The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released an update entitled MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19 to "help K-12 schools maintain in-person learning by outlining mitigation strategies when students are exposed to another student infected with COVID-19." [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI\\_Safer\\_Schools\\_Guidance\\_for\\_Managing\\_Students\\_Exposed\\_to\\_COVID-19\\_734750\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_Safer_Schools_Guidance_for_Managing_Students_Exposed_to_COVID-19_734750_7.pdf)

Neither I, nor any of the other superintendents I have spoken with want to do this; nor do our building principals, who now have to spend huge amounts of time doing something other than educating students. From my perspective as the district's instructional leader, and the one responsible for ensuring students get a quality education and employees have a safe workplace, a person's right to choose whether or not to get a vaccination, or to wear a mask, is not in question here.

Titled School Quarantine Guidance, What to do when a student is exposed but doesn't have symptoms, the diagram on the second page is a quick and easy to comprehend visual aid. **The gist of the update is that fully vaccinated students who are exposed can remain in school by wearing a mask and getting tested 3-5 days after their last exposure.**

**Unvaccinated students who are exposed can only remain in school if they and the COVID+ student were both masked at the time of exposure.** The exposed student must also test daily for 7 days and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

While I'm not advocating for a mask mandate, the diagram appears to illustrate that besides being vaccinated, wearing a mask is a singular step for students to remain in school (and participate in after school events).

Sincerely,

Bob Cassidy, Superintendent  
Byron Area Schools