



312 W. Maple Avenue
Byron, MI 48418
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Byron Area Schools

April 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For one week during the week of Monday, April 12 - Friday, April 16:

- All students in grades 7-12 will be moved to remote learning.
- All middle school and high school athletic events and practices will be cancelled.
- Breakfasts and lunches will be available for pick-up on Tuesday and Wednesday and can be arranged by either phoning Stacey Anibal at (810) 266-4648 or email at anibal@byron.k12.mi.us.
- The testing scheduled for April 13, 2021 will be rescheduled to April 27, 2021.
- Students in need of materials to support virtual learning for the week should contact their school's office.
- Students that have been identified as a close contact should follow the return date on their contact letter.
- The custodians will deep clean each of the buildings.

During this past week an overwhelming number of BAS middle school and high school students have either tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with someone who has, resulting in a very large number of students necessarily being quarantined and having to be moved to remote learning. Additionally, many athletic events have had to be cancelled for both this week and next.

Today the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provided school districts with information that showed COVID-19 is swiftly spreading in all regions of Michigan. The positivity rates have increased to 15.6% statewide; since February COVID cases have increased by 375%; and since February COVID hospitalizations have increased by 203%. Across the state "case rates for children 0-9 and 10-19 are at an all-time high and are more than quadruple from a month ago" and "for the week ending April 1st, the number of reported outbreaks increased from 248 to 301".

Because of the statewide increases MDHHS has suggested that school districts implement "school mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19". They "strongly recommend" that for the next two weeks school districts:

1. Move to remote learning for high school students
2. Pause all youth sports

While we appreciate the recommendations from MDHHS, and will consider those as we continue to develop our local COVID-19 response, the fact that earlier this week we had already begun the processes of contact tracing and quarantining students alters the situation favorably for Byron students, families and staff.

Sincerely,

Bob Cassidy, Superintendent
Byron Area Schools