



COVERT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

35323 M-140 HIGHWAY
COVERT, MICHIGAN 49043

Vision - Covert Public Schools empowers diverse students to achieve, innovate and lead in our global community.

Mission – Help students construct knowledge using research based strategies in a safe supported environment that nurtures innovators and problem solvers to develop practical skills, scientific knowledge and entrepreneurship to meet global challenges.

October 2, 2020

Dear Covert Public Schools parents, staff, and community members:

Today, we received notification from the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department that someone associated with our school district – one student from Covert High School – has tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the individuals involved, we believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so you can make well-informed decisions for your family.

Out of an abundance of caution, and due to the number of close contacts already identified, Covert Middle School/ High School will move all students to remote learning until Friday October 16th. School will resume on Monday October 19th. While the Health Department did not mandate a school closure, we are closing Covert Middle/High School during this time for the following reasons:

1. We need to give the Health Department time to determine the risk for community spread at Covert Middle/High school through their contact tracing
2. We are hiring a private company to deep clean and sanitize the building without students/staff present

Reminder – In accordance with Board of Education policies, our Return to Learn plan, and direction from local, state, and federal health officials, if your student has any of the following symptoms, you must keep them home from school!

- new loss of taste or smell
- a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- sore throat
- an uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- the onset of a severe headache
- diarrhea and/or vomiting or unusual belly pain

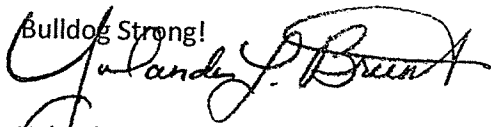
Additionally, according to Board policies and written guidance from local, state, and federal health officials, if a child is placed in quarantine following experiencing the above symptoms a parent/guardian must provide a negative COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note releasing the student to attend school.

Please continue to follow all COVID-19 health and safety recommendations from the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the CDC:

- Clean your hands often, with either soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean your hands after throwing away the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff, and community members. Please continue to take necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. I encourage everyone to remain calm and to be empathetic and respectful to those affected.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. Thank you for your support of Covert Public Schools.

Bulldog Strong!

Yolanda Brunt
Superintendent