



Benzie County Central Schools

Moving forward, the district will continue to preserve the ability to enact protocols based on the situation at hand in cooperation with the local health department. Local data that will drive levels of protocols and may be as specific as an individual classroom, teams, organizations, grade levels, or school-wide data.

2021-2022 Return to Benzie Recommendations

Masks

- **Masks will be encouraged but not required of students, staff, or visitors.** Wearing a mask is a choice made by families when their child is at school. We will work to ensure a positive culture for those who continue to mask and for those that choose to not mask.
- Face coverings are **not required for students or staff while outdoors.**
- **Face coverings are not required on [buses](#).** Wearing a mask is a choice.

Vaccination

- This is a personal choice for families and staff and will not be required by Benzie County Central Schools.

Testing

- The district will not require COVID-19 testing at this time. (MHSAA will not be requiring testing at this time.)

Cohorts

- We will not require cohorting to begin the year. If increased cases are present at the elementary level, we will move to cohorting students during lunch and recess times.
- We will not require assigned seating at the MS/HS level for lunches. If increased cases are present, we will move to assigned seating for MS/HS students.
- All classes will keep assigned seating charts and have them available to administration if necessary for contact tracing purposes.
- Buses will also have assigned seating. Social distancing will also be observed where space permits.

Social Distancing

- Staff will support distancing when possible. Recommended classroom distance is 3 feet and 6 feet for other indoor spaces.

- If outbreaks or rising cases are present, we will strive to provide 6 feet distance between desks as space/arrangements exist.










COVID-19 Contact Tracing *(close contact defined as someone within 3 feet in a classroom setting when strict mitigation measures like students being masked are present or within 6 feet in any other indoor setting for 15 minutes or more) *Close Contact is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. In a school setting, if both the exposed individual and the positive case are wearing masks, the close contact is defined as anyone closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period.

- We will still continue to trace close contacts* of COVID positive students in conjunction with our health department.
- COVID positive students will isolate for 10 days and can return when they are symptom free or can isolate for 5 days and return to school or work with a mask for days 6-10.
- Families will be notified to monitor their child for symptoms if their child was identified as a close contact*. If they are symptomatic, they will be required to quarantine for 10 days.

	Who is Impacted?	Public Health Recommendations
ISOLATION COVID-19 POSITIVE	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	<p>Isolate at home for 5 days</p> <p>If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).*</p> <p>If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.</p>
Quarantine (Symptom Monitoring) Exposed to COVID-19	Personal or Household Contact	<p>Monitor for symptoms x 10 days and seek testing if symptoms develop.</p> <p>Test at least 1 time 3-7 days after exposure and if symptoms develop.</p> <p>Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days from last date of exposure.</p> <p>Avoid unmasked activities or activities with high risk</p>

		vulnerable individuals for 10 days.
Quarantine (Symptom Monitoring) Exposed to COVID-19	Community, School, or Social Setting	<p>Monitor for symptoms x 10 days and seek testing if symptoms develop.</p> <p>Test if symptoms develop.</p> <p>Consider wearing a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from date of last exposure. At minimum, wear a mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.</p>

Isolation & Quarantine Guidance in the Post-Surge Recovery Phase

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
Isolation Has COVID-19	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	 Isolate at home for 5 days; and  If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).* <i>If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.</i>
Quarantine Exposed to COVID-19	Personal or household contact , regardless of vaccination status, exposed to someone with COVID-19 (see definition below).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Test 3-7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop.  Wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.**  Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***
	Other exposure (from community, social, work setting).	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Test if symptoms develop.  Consider wearing a mask around others for 10 days after exposure; at a minimum, mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***

* If a mask cannot be worn, recommend 10 days of home isolation.
** If a mask cannot be worn, individual should home quarantine for 10 days. A Test to Stay protocol may also be developed in partnership between school and local health department.
*** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings.
Personal/household contacts include individuals who share living spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living room and kitchens. It also includes those who live together, sleep over, carpool or have direct exposure to respiratory secretions from a positive individual. This would include exposure in childcare settings for those under 2 years of age.

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Cleaning

- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue in all Benzie facilities and buses.

- All classrooms will be provided with cleaning and sanitizing materials.
- All buses will have sanitizing stations for students.
- Should increased cases arise, additional mitigation measures will be implemented.

Health

- Benzie Central will continue to model appropriate hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.
- Benzie Central will encourage parents to monitor the health of their children including staying home if fever is present.
- If a student becomes ill at school (fever of 100.4 or more, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, vomiting, severe headache) parents or emergency contacts are expected to pick up the child immediately and the child will remain out of school for 24 hours and should be fever free before returning to school.

Visitors

- Visitors/parents will be allowed in the building by appointment.
- Pick up and drop off routines will be the same as last year
- Visitors will be required to complete a screener prior to entering the building

Athletics/Performing Arts

- Testing will no longer be required.

Learning Options

- Pre-K through 5th grade students will be face to face. Benzie Schools believes that these students learn best when they are face to face with their teacher and peers. Much early learning focuses on social emotional skills. These skills are best learned in the presence of their peers.
- Grades 6-12 will have two options: Face to Face or virtual learning through Benzie Academy. We understand that maturing students have unique needs and want to offer learning opportunities that will meet individual needs. Face to Face is always the preferred method of learning, however, we are providing Edgenuity for students that found success with online learning that was self-paced. Parents are strongly encouraged to speak to a counselor to ensure that this is the best fit for their child's learning style.