



Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Happy New Year 2022! Students and Staff Return to School on Monday

December 31st, 2021

Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,

On behalf of everyone in our district, I hope you have enjoyed a safe and healthy winter break. As we close the calendar year of 2021, we thank you for your patience, flexibility and support over the last twelve months. We sincerely hope for you all the best happiness and health heading into the New Year.

As a reminder, ***students and staff will return to the classroom on Monday, January 3rd and please keep in mind that our entire school family will remain masked at least until Friday, January 14th.*** To help inform our decision to return to the classroom, district leaders surveyed our staff regarding their overall health and wellness status. Please be aware that BBHCS District officials are quite cognizant of the circumstances taking place around us all. When masking, we encourage you to consider surgical grade masks rather than the cloth-style, for added protection and minimizing risk. Expect minor protocol changes during lunchtime as well. We are also aware of new updates from the Centers for Disease Control regarding the coronavirus, and the Ohio Department of Health aligned their guidance with the CDC this week as well. Those new points of guidance have been included below, directly from the CDC webpage, as of Monday, December 27th.

- Given what we currently know about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation for the public. People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.
- Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.
- Isolation relates to behavior after a confirmed infection. Isolation for 5 days followed by wearing a well-fitting mask will minimize the risk of spreading the virus to others. Quarantine refers to the time following exposure to the virus or close contact with

someone known to have COVID-19. Both updates come as the Omicron variant continues to spread throughout the U.S. and reflects the current science on when and for how long a person is maximally infectious. These recommendations do not supersede state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, nor do they apply to healthcare workers for whom CDC has updated guidance.

There are many opportunities in Ohio to be vaccinated, including walk-in and scheduled appointments statewide at pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, doctor's offices, community vaccination sites, and local health departments. There is ample supply of vaccine for boosters, as well as first and second doses, for Ohioans. Ohioans can check their eligibility and book an appointment online at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov or by calling 1-833-427-5634.

More information will continue to be posted on the BBHCSD website under COVID-19 Resources. Once again, Happy New Year 2022! Have a safe and enjoyable weekend. See you all, fully masked, on Monday!

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Joelle M. Magyar
Superintendent of Schools

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