



Brighton Area Schools

125 South Church Street, Brighton, Michigan 48116
(810) 299-4000 • FAX (810) 299-4045
www.brightonk12.com

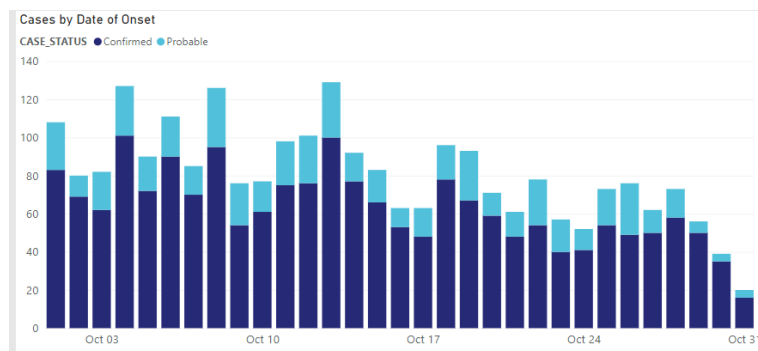
Dr. Matthew S. Outlaw
Superintendent of Schools
outlawm@brightonk12.com

11/2/2021

Dear Brighton Families, Staff and Students,

As we begin the second quarter of the school year, I would like to provide a few updates for families regarding COVID-19 within the county.

- I. Case Trend during October** – The following is a case update for Livingston County for the month of October for all age groups. The following is the direct link:
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html



**The case numbers for the last two days are likely to be higher than shown on this graph as case reporting may lag slightly.*

- II. Shift in Guidance for Exclusions for Students in 7th through 12th grade** – As I have shared in previous communication, extensive discussion and study across the nation has been focused on the COVID-19 mitigation strategy of excluding asymptomatic close contacts from in-person schooling. Throughout the pandemic, health officials and school districts have worked to find a balance between the importance of in-person schooling for our children and the desire to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Over the course of the last 20 months of the pandemic, health officials have made numerous adjustments to this strategy including changes to the number of days of quarantine/exclusion, permissible exceptions, guidelines for identifying close contacts, and even the terminology used. As we begin the month of November, LCHD will piloting new exclusion guidance for students in 7th through 12th grades. Specifically, asymptomatic students identified as close contacts will not be excluded from school under the following conditions:

- The student is not currently in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19. This would also apply to those that have displayed symptoms of COVID-19 and are waiting for test results. These strategies remain unchanged.
- The student is not currently in quarantine for an exposure to COVID-19 outside of the school setting. Specifically, health departments across the nation have found that the home environment is a primary location for the transmission of COVID-19 so they will continue to exclude family members of positive cases when appropriate.
- The student's exposure to COVID-19 was not related to an identified cluster or outbreak within a classroom or group such as an athletic team. "Cluster" means three or more students, teachers or other school employees that have cases linked within the same classroom over a 14-day period. When LCHD identifies that a cluster or outbreak exists, they will administer targeted interventions as needed. Such strategies may include a short-term shift to virtual learning for a classroom, short-term masking and/or recommendations for additional testing.

Districts will continue to contact trace and notify families if their child has been identified as a close contact. LCHD recommends that close contacts:

- Wear a mask while attending school.
- Monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they are showing any signs of illness.
- Test for COVID-19 three to five days after their exposure to a positive case.

III. Frequently Asked Questions

- Will there be any changes to the exclusion guidance for students in Preschool through 6th grade*** – LCHD is piloting the program above for our students in 7th through 12th grade. If this pilot program is successful, LCHD will determine if adjustments can be made to the exclusion guidance for other students. The availability of vaccines for the 5-11 year old population may also impact decisions made by LCHD.
- What is the difference between a “quarantine” and an “exclusion”?*** – The health department has shifted from the use of the term “quarantine” for schools as this term seems to reference restrictions beyond school hours and school-related activities. Instead, they have chosen to use the word “exclusion” as they refer to time out of school.

IV. Resources – The following are a few important links for families seeking additional information regarding COVID-19.

- LCHD School Website*** - <https://www.livgov.com/health/ph/Pages/COVID19-School.aspx>
- Brighton Area Schools Submit a Question Link:***
<https://forms.gle/axGydsH4oC9r2FL17>)
- Brighton Area Schools COVID-19 FAQ:***
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VcVDRIcejrkZsqk-j6J48wOTsiF2eQkKs08qZaEHnJM/edit?usp=sharing>
- LCHD COVID-19 Self-Reporting Link:***
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6359915/UPDATED-COVID-19-Self-Report-Form>

In closing, thank you again for taking the time to read this update and for your continued partnership. Thank you for your time and Go Dogs!

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Outlaw

Matthew S. Outlaw

Superintendent for the Brighton Area Schools