



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A Note on Student Attendance as it Relates to Covid-19

May 11, 2023 marked the end of the declaration by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service that Covid-19 was a Public Health Emergency. Accordingly, many aspects of the various responses to Covid-19 changed. The purpose of this communication is to relay Burgettstown Area School District's guidelines as they pertain to student absences related to Covid-19.

- The school district's Health and Safety Plan indicates that we follow the lead of the CDC and the Department of Health.
- The CDC recommends that an individual who tests positive for Covid-19 isolate (quarantine) for 5 days, at which time the isolation may end if the individual is symptom free. Therefore the Burgettstown Area School District recommends isolation as well.
- However, since the CDC does not require the isolation, the Burgettstown Area School District does not require the isolation either.
- Parents/guardians should consider the same factors they consider when determining attendance if they have a child that has a cold, the flu, or is in some other way ill: Are they feverish? Do they have a headache? To what degree do they have an upset stomach? Could the child be contagious? In short, parents/guardians should use their judgment when deciding to send their children to school.
- Parents/Guardians should be aware that an absence from school, related to Covid-19, will be classified as any other absence and will require a parent note to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.
- Each day of Covid-19 related absence noted on a parent excuse will count against the 10 days of parent excuses permissible within our attendance policy.
- Physician excuses will not be counted among the 10 days permissible with a parent excuse.
- Should the CDC, Department of Health, or the Pennsylvania Department of Education change their response to Covid-19, the school district may alter its procedures and/or requirements.