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## **Britton Deerfield Schools** **Mrs. Stacy Johnson, Superintendent**

I am reaching out to provide information regarding Britton Deerfield School's progress in moving forward with a plan for returning to school in the fall. For the 2020-21 school year, each district is required to submit a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for approval by the local board of education by August 15, 2020. Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-142 gives school districts a framework to support returning to PK-12 education. This executive order states that school districts must adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan that aligns with the Michigan Return to School Roadmap from the Covid-19 Taskforce on Education and Return to School Advisory Council.

As the Governor stated in the executive order, "There's no one-size-fits-all solution: What works in Lansing may not work in Sault Sainte Marie. Districts will retain the flexibility to tailor their instruction to their particular needs and to the disease conditions present in their regions." (EO-2020-142)

Currently, the Britton Deerfield Administration and the Lenawee County Superintendent's Association (LCSA) are meeting multiple times each week to evaluate data and research, review the requirements for all six phases outlined in the Michigan Safe Start Plan, and discuss best-practice solutions to ensuring a safe start to the coming school year. If our region is in phases 1-3, school will not be open for in-person instruction and all student learning and activities will occur remotely. If our region is in phases 4-5 (We are currently in Phase 4), in-person instruction is permitted, but with required safety protocols (these vary slightly in phases 4-5). Phase 6 reflects the post-pandemic period where in-person instruction is permitted without leniency in the necessary safety protocols.

Districts are required to develop three plans for returning to school: a plan for learning in Phases 1-3, a plan for Phase 4, and a plan for Phase 5. Districts must also consider three methods of delivery of instruction. One plan is for virtual only. The other is for face to face, and the third is for a potential "hybrid approach". While BD is working collaboratively with the other Lenawee County Districts on a county wide approach, please know that we must prepare a plan that will meet the needs of all families and students within our communities. All county districts have been active in meeting together during June and July with state and federal legislators, community health officials, and legal counsel as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ideally, in Britton Deerfield, we would like to provide both a virtual option and a face-to-face option for our families in Phases 4 and 5. Our focus is to use results obtained in our district survey, to be transparent with our families, and to keep our children at the forefront of all decisions made. While the past few weeks have brought with it some distractions, please know our work has continued behind the scenes on how to safely get our students and staff back to school and comply with Executive Order 2020-142 and all other applicable governmental authorities. Britton Deerfield will have a plan in place to provide education for our students and meet the requirements of the executive order in the safest manner possible.

You can expect information to be released on our school website, via instant alert messages, and through our upcoming Board of Education meetings. As our plans develop we would greatly appreciate parent and community support. It would be helpful if, as questions arise, they could be directed to the administration. We are very happy to assist all families during this most unusual and difficult time. Thank you for your willingness to remain committed to our district. We can't wait to start this year with all of you as ONE PATRIOT NATION!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stacy L. Johnson  
Superintendent