

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

We are all anxious to return to some sense of normalcy and life as we knew it prior to the pandemic. Major League Baseball was the first entity to display this spirited enthusiasm this past June, as a plan was drafted and executed to move forward with their season, they tried to defy the laws of in the wake of the pandemic. While pro sports are one of the few entities with the financial resources and manpower to attempt to defy this the funding, planning, preparation, and precautions pale-in comparison to the ascendancy of Covid-19 as players and coaches, one by one succumb to the virus.

In July, over 250 children attended a summer camp. Staff and campers alike took safety precautions by frequently cleaning, using personal protective equipment, and keeping children in groups based on their cabin assignments. All participants of the camp were also required to provide documentation of negative Covid-19 testing results 12 days prior to their arrival. But to no avail, the wildfire could not be contained and an outbreak unfurled, resulting in an abrupt conclusion of the camp and immediate quarantine.

In the beginning, it was seen as a novelty, a document that would be more cosmetic than anything, and considered an adhesion agreement at best in a courtroom. However, more and more schools and districts nationwide have taken refuge under the umbrella of the "Covid-19 Waiver". There has been casual conversation about the notion, but we are approaching a point in where a robust discussion is appropriate in order to address the fears and worries, and questions that loom in the minds of many. Because a waiver may generally not be a feasible option for a public school district, perhaps consideration of requiring a parental acknowledgement form prior to returning to face to face instruction may be more practical.

All persons, be it students, faculty, and staff must acknowledge and agree to make an honest and sincere effort to check their temperature on a daily basis, monitor and accurately record symptoms, such as: runny nose, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, being around someone who has the virus, or any international travels within a recent 14 day period. The "**Integrity Principle**" is a pledge and promise to actively participate in the social contract and moral obligation to exercise the one most powerful and fundamentally sound tool at our disposal, which doesn't require much costs or effort on the part of the user, which is to wear personal protective equipment as frequently as possible.

This agenda item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY:**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. collaborate with the School Board Attorney as needed to create a Safety Acknowledgment document that is intended to fortify Miami-Dade providing a safe learning environment;
2. examine and evaluate the practicality of said document as it relates to liability, acknowledgment, and cooperation; and
3. provide an update to the Board of the document upon completion by October 21, 2020 School Board meeting.