

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COVID-19 RELATED PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION, NOTIFICATION, QUARANTINE & TESTING**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools remains committed to the health, safety, and wellness of its employees, parents, community stakeholders, and most importantly it's students. As the community, state, nation, and world continues to wrestle with the significant and adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, school systems around the nation including Miami-Dade continue to grapple with the provision of safe and healthy learning and working environments for its employees and students. In doing so, the identification, notification, quarantine and testing as they relate to COVID-19 have become a fulcrum of not only a school districts strategy but as well as that of public and private companies and organizations.

Recently, the return of students and employees to the schoolhouse model for in-person learning has been met with an increase in positivity rates across the community, state, and nation. In fact, October experienced a surge of new COVID-19 cases in the United States that has escalated both anxiety and alarm both in experts as well as citizens. These were triggered by an increase of over 40 percent from the previous two weeks and was a rate of almost 10,000 higher than the average reported late last week. Recently, Florida's Department of Health confirmed 4,298 additional cases of COVID-19, bringing the state's known total to 786,311 with an increase in newly confirmed cases just this month. The state's percent positivity for new cases — people who tested positive for the first time —increased from 5.91% to 6.31%, according to the Florida Department of Health. Although, a decrease was conversely realized in Miami-Dade County the return of students and employees to the schoolhouse model has unquestionably heightened a sense of alarm and anxiety in schools throughout the District.

Despite the commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts of the District there remains both an opportunity and obligation to review, clarify, and improve plans, processes, and procedures for COVID-19 identification, notification, quarantine, and testing across the District and amongst all stakeholders including employees, parents, community members, and most importantly students. Inasmuch as current efforts have advanced the Districts efforts to provide for a safe and healthy return to high quality teaching and learning experiences, lingering ambiguity and confusion, continues to vex the most well intended and noblest of efforts. Such ambiguity must be abated, mitigated, and eventually eliminated to ensure appropriate communication and clarity around issues pertaining to COVID-19 identification, notification, quarantine, testing, and even decisions pertaining to school closures.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to review procedures for COVID-19 related identification, notification, quarantine, and testing and confirm the process for COVID-19 testing for employees that confirm current positive or negative status; provide a detailed plan regarding the deployment of COVID-19 rapid testing kits to schools as well as the deployment of nurses and health related support staff; explore the availability of cost neutral partnerships with entities, organizations, and/or municipalities for COVID-19 testing; develop and implement a communication plan and strategy for employees, parents, community stakeholders, and students regarding relevant and related COVID-19 procedures governing identification, notification, quarantine, and testing; review, clarify, and further codify criteria for determining COVID-19 related school closures; review and strengthen where needed, procedures for contact tracing as it specifically relates to siblings and/or relatives residing in the same household who attend different schools; review and strengthen where needed, procedures and processes to monitor quarantined students pursuant to established CDC guidelines and/or requirements; ensure full and immediate compliance with School Board policy for all COVID-19 and emergency related contracts and agreements; and provide an update to the Board on the above steps taken as well as any additional COVID-19 relevant information in a presentation at the December 2, 2020 Committee meeting.

This item has been reviewed by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. review procedures for COVID-19 related identification, notification, quarantine, and testing and confirm the process for COVID-19 testing for employees that confirm current positive or negative status;
2. provide a detailed plan regarding the deployment of COVID-19 rapid testing kits to schools as well as the deployment of nurses and health related support staff;
3. explore the availability of cost neutral partnerships with entities, organizations, and/or municipalities for COVID-19 testing;
4. develop and implement a communication plan and strategy for employees, parents, community stakeholders, and students regarding relevant and related COVID-19 procedures governing identification, notification, quarantine, and testing;
5. review, clarify, and further codify criteria for determining COVID-19 related school closures;
6. review and strengthen where needed, procedures for contact tracing as it specifically relates to siblings and/or relatives residing in the same household who attend different schools;

7. review and strengthen where needed, procedures and processes to monitor quarantined students pursuant to established CDC guidelines and/or requirements;
8. ensure full and immediate compliance with School Board policy for all COVID-19 and emergency related contracts and agreements; and
9. provide an update to the Board on the above steps taken as well as any additional COVID-19 relevant information in a presentation at the December 2, 2020 Committee meeting.