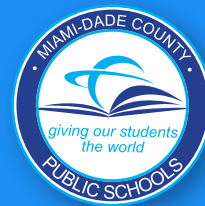


# MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19



## Is my child required to have the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school?

The COVID-19 vaccine is not required to attend school; however, the District encourages eligible students to get vaccinated. Information on vaccinations for eligible students may be found at [backtoschool.dadeschools.net](http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net).

## Will facial coverings be required at schools?

Although face coverings are not required, the District will strongly encourage the use of facial coverings.

## What health and safety measures will be in place in schools and District facilities?

Employees and students will be encouraged to stay home if they are ill. Should they become ill during the school day, students will be separated from their peers, and their parent/guardian will be contacted to pick them up from school and seek medical care. All schools will be cleaned at the end of the school day, and restrooms will be cleaned frequently during school hours. Schools will continue using electrostatic germicide sprayers to disinfect rooms and hallways. Frequent handwashing will be encouraged, and hand sanitizing stations will remain throughout each school. Students will be seated 3 feet apart in classrooms, to the extent feasible, to promote physical distancing.

## Do all schools have a health professional on site?

K-12 schools will continue to have a health professional on site during the 2021-2022 school year.

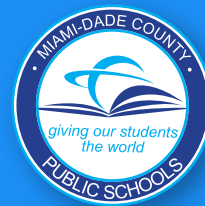
## What personal behaviors are expected of all students?

1. Stay home if sick.
2. Sanitize hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol upon entering the building.
3. Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
4. Avoid touching face and eyes.
5. Wash/sanitize hands after touching or removing facial covering.
6. Limit use of shared objects, such as physical education equipment, playground equipment, art supplies, toys, and games. Shared objects will be cleaned after each use.
7. Bring personal water bottles with water. Water fountains will be turned off and hydration stations will be made available for refills.
8. Follow all directions provided by teachers or administrators for the safety of the school community. It is especially important that students stay in the classrooms and spaces.
9. All persons must maximize physical distancing to the extent possible under the circumstances.
10. Face coverings are not required but are strongly recommended.
11. If worn, all student facial coverings must meet the requirements of the Code of Student Conduct and Policy 5511, Dress Code and School Uniform. Face coverings are apparel/accessory and must not include obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, or inflammatory messages or pictorial graphics. Face coverings which include inappropriate language that could be perceived as offensive, derogatory, threatening, or intimidating are strictly prohibited. Repeated display of such face coverings will constitute disciplinary measures as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

## What mental health services are available for my child?

Information on mental health services available for students may be accessed at [mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net](http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net) or by contacting the Department of Mental Health Services at 305-995-7100.

# MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19



## **What sanitization measures have been implemented to routinely clean schools and District facilities?**

All schools will be cleaned at the end of the school day, with the exception of restrooms, which will be cleaned frequently during school hours. To aid in the daily cleaning, every school has been provided electrostatic germicide sprayers to disinfect rooms and hallways. Additionally, buses will be wiped down and cleaned between routes. Staff will use hospital-grade germicide when sanitizing.

## **What do parents need to do before sending their child to school?**

Parents are asked to perform the At-Home Daily Health Screening each day to determine if it is safe to send their child to school.

## **What happens if a student arrives at school exhibiting COVID-like symptoms or becomes ill at school?**

If a student becomes ill or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the student will be separated from other students and staff to the designated space identified as the Health Screening Area. If the student is not wearing a mask, the student will be required to put one on. The student will be monitored, and the District will contact the parent/guardian or, if needed, the emergency contacts. Parents/guardians and/or emergency contacts will be informed of the importance of the student being picked up immediately for the safety of the student and others.

## **What steps will be taken if a student tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, contact investigation will be initiated in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. The student will be required to self-isolate for 5 days. The student may return to school five (5) days after obtaining a positive test result. The student may return to school on day six (6) if they remain symptom-free without the use of medication.

## **If a student is confirmed by the FDOH in Miami-Dade as testing positive for COVID-19, what type of clearance is needed for the student to return to school?**

The student may return to school on day six (6) after receiving a positive test result if they are symptom-free without the use of medication.

## **If a student is asked to quarantine because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, when will they be allowed to return to their school?**

Parents/guardians have the right to choose if they want to quarantine their child who does not have any COVID-19 symptoms after exposure. If the parent/guardian opt-out of quarantine, they should continue monitoring their child's symptoms for up to 10 days. If the parent/guardian chooses to quarantine their student, the student quarantine period will not exceed seven (7) days from the date of the exposure to the individual that test positive for COVID-19.

## **If you have been identified as being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and are asked to quarantine, do other members of your household who attend or work at District schools have to quarantine as well?**

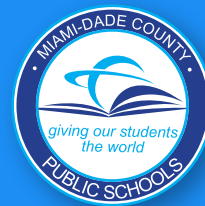
If the other household members did not come in direct contact with someone that tested positive, and the individual in quarantine does not have symptoms, other household members, including siblings, do not need to quarantine or isolate. However, if the individual in quarantine has symptoms or tests positive, all household members should contact their medical provider and get tested.

## **What is the criteria for closing an individual classroom or multiple ones versus an entire school due to one or more positive cases of COVID-19?**

In many cases, the decision to close a classroom(s) or a school is the result of the close contact investigation. However, these determinations will be made on an individual school-by-school basis due to multiple factors that potentially impact the final decision. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Number of COVID-19 positive cases of students and staff
- Potential exposure to other students and employees identified through contact tracing
- Ability to sanitize affected areas prior to the return of students and staff
- Potential for outbreak
- Cases that are linked within same school
- Ability to notify those impacted based on the day of the week and the time that the case was reported

# MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19



## **If a child must leave the school setting due to COVID-19, what steps will be taken to ensure the student remains engaged in learning?**

Students under a stay-home directive due to COVID-19 can participate in remote learning until they are cleared to return for in-person instruction. Please visit [icp.dadeschools.net](http://icp.dadeschools.net) and click on the Information for Parents tab for additional details.

## **What is the procedure to report a COVID-19 diagnosis in a household?**

If anyone in the student's household tests positive for COVID-19, the student must follow the quarantine protocols detailed above.

## **What information is included in the dashboard and how often is the dashboard updated?**

Dashboard data will be updated each work day and include confirmed cases at schools and work locations. Dashboard data entry is separate and apart from the immediate mitigation activities occurring at school sites, such as self-isolation for suspected/positive cases, the quarantining of employees and students who are close contacts, and the deep sanitization of all areas of the impacted school. The District COVID-19 Dashboard is not intended to be a real-time system for tracking self-reported employee and student confirmed cases. It is a lagging indicator and should not be interpreted as an immediate notification system of cases. Families and employees should not rely on the dashboard to learn about cases in their school or worksite as they will learn about self-reported cases from their school or worksite well ahead of that information being populated onto the dashboard.

## **How will students receive meals?**

Breakfast and lunch procedures will be determined at each individual school site. Ideally, each school will be able to utilize their cafeteria and dining areas while providing for adequate spacing. The use of outdoor dining areas will be maximized whenever possible. Meal schedules will also be carefully coordinated to ensure an appropriate number of students are in the cafeteria at one time.

## **What safety and social distancing measures will be implemented on school buses?**

Masks and/or face coverings are optional based on parent/guardian's choice for all students. Enhanced sanitization protocols will continue to be followed on all school buses.

## **Can parents or other visitors access schools?**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitor access will be limited and restricted to the main office. Visitors are not permitted to enter any District buildings under the following conditions:

1. The individual has any of the following symptoms: a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher; shortness of breath; cough; loss of taste or smell; muscle aches; weakness; chills; nausea; vomiting; or any other symptoms of COVID-19;
2. The individual has tested positive for COVID-19;
3. The individual has been exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID-19;
4. The individual has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Any visitors permitted to enter District buildings will be subject to screening and must adhere to all District guidelines.