

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF COVID-19 CASES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Many people are concerned with the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in Miami-Dade County. Despite things looking normal they are not. This pandemic has become a new norm for everyone, and being informed by our School District with accurate and timely information is extremely important. Under-reporting of these very important COVID-19 cases is beyond unacceptable.

The Miami-Dade County School System has put in place a Coronavirus (COVID-19) reporting dashboard. The information posted should be up-to-date and accurate with the most recent cases. This has not been the case in many instances. Many of our staff, students and educators go home possibly exposing their families not knowing if someone in their respective schools or departments has contracted the virus. It is the District's responsibility to inform us of positive cases within our District immediately, whether it is at the School Board Administration Building or schools. Knowing this information as soon as it occurs is imperative in order to protect our families and others from this contagious virus. It is important that the public have trust in the data reported on the dashboard. The dashboard would be a great resource if the data was updated in a timely manner. Transparency and awareness of notifications on the dashboard of COVID-19 cases as they occur in real time for School Board Members, staff, educators, students, parents, as well as the public is crucial. The dashboard should be revised to add a field or category that denotes or list the number of quarantined cases and dates of all individuals within the Miami-Dade County Public School System as soon as it occurs, this would give us a more accurate number of quarantined cases.

As we have experienced cases at the School Board Administration Building, we have noticed that some departments shut down completely for 14 days, whereas others have no directions or protocols in place. There appears to be no consistency. We must have the same protocols available for all departments, not just pick and choose which departments are shut down for 14 days when a positive case occurs within that department. The MDCPS has provided three testing sites for all employees where it only takes 15 minutes to get results. If a person has tested positive the same day, their supervisor should be noticed immediately. It is our job to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our staff as well as others at MDCPS.

This agenda item seeks to direct the Superintendent to provide a standard written protocol for School Board Administration Building staff if an employee tests positive for COVID-19 within their department; add to the MDCPS COVID-19 dashboard, the number of quarantine employees and students from each designated site; and update the COVID-19 dashboard in real time.

This 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. Develop a standard written notification protocol that applies evenly throughout Miami-Dade County Public School System, if an employee test positive for COVID-19;
2. Notify all supervisors and Board Members immediately if someone has contracted COVID-19 within the School Board Administration (SBAB) building, (without disclosing the identity of a person);
3. Provide written directives for staff within SBAB, once an employee of the SBAB has a positive result;
4. Add another field to the COVID-19 dashboard immediately notifying the number of quarantined employees and students in real time; and
5. Report to the Regular Board meeting on December 9, 2020.