

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19



What happens if a student 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 school's Isolation Room. While in the Isolation Room, the student will be monitored. The District will contact parents/guardians and, if needed, the student's 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.

If a student is ill, when may he or she return to school?

Students presenting general illness symptoms that are non-COVID related will need to remain home until they are symptom-free without the use of medication for 24 hours. Students presenting COVID-like symptoms, but no known COVID contact, MUST remain home in isolation for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND symptoms have improved, UNLESS student obtains a clearance letter from health care provider.

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

The FDOH will notify the District School Health Office (DSHO) when the student is cleared to return to school. The DSHO office will notify the school principal who will notify the student's parent/guardian.

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?

If the student has no symptoms, they will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last contact with a person who has COVID-19 before returning to school. If the student develops symptoms, they must remain home in isolation for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND symptoms have improved.

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 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, the household member should contact their medical provider and get tested.

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, when is he or she allowed to return to their worksite?

Employees who were medically confirmed to have COVID-19, and demonstrated symptoms, may be allowed to return to work if:

- At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared; 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; COVID-19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath); and submit a doctor's note allowing them to return to work.

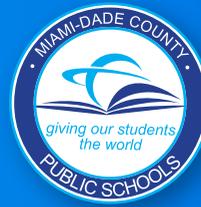
Employees who had a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19, but did not show any symptoms, may be allowed to return to work if:

- At least 10 days have passed since they had a positive viral test for COVID-19; have no apparent symptoms; and submit a doctor's note allowing them to return to work.

If an employee has been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, when may he or she return to their worksite?

Employees must quarantine for 14 days after their last direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and may return to work if they are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath).

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What steps will be taken if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

The District notifies the FDOH in Miami-Dade of every self-reported case of a student and employee. An in-school contact investigation/tracing process is initiated immediately. A major part of the investigation is to determine who came in close contact with the individual who tested positive. In most cases, those individuals who are identified as having come in close contact are told to quarantine. These actions are in addition to other mitigation strategies that may be implemented.

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 the school-site 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

What is the procedure if a child arrives at school exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms?

The student will be assessed, and the parents will be notified immediately to pick-up the student. Based on signs and symptoms, the student may be placed in the isolation room until parent pick-up occurs.

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) began reporting cases on the COVID-19 dashboard on October 5 – when students returned to school. Confirmed cases among students and employees who are physically in school will be reported on the dashboard, which is updated daily. Positive student COVID-19 cases are uploaded after they have been confirmed by FDOH in Miami-Dade County. All M-DCPS employees must self-report a positive COVID-19 test result in accordance with Board policy. Self-reported employee cases are uploaded once they have been verified using an internal vetting process.

The school site case numbers reflected in the system are provided by principals and vetted by the District Health Office to ensure data quality is maintained. This may result in several days lag for self-reported cases. The confirmation process for student cases and subsequent entry into the system are dependent on test verification from the FDOH in Miami-Dade County.

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 student 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.

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 parents/guardians must immediately self-report the result to the school(s). After school hours and on weekends, cases can be reported by calling 305-995-3000. The school principal will then report the case to the DSHO.