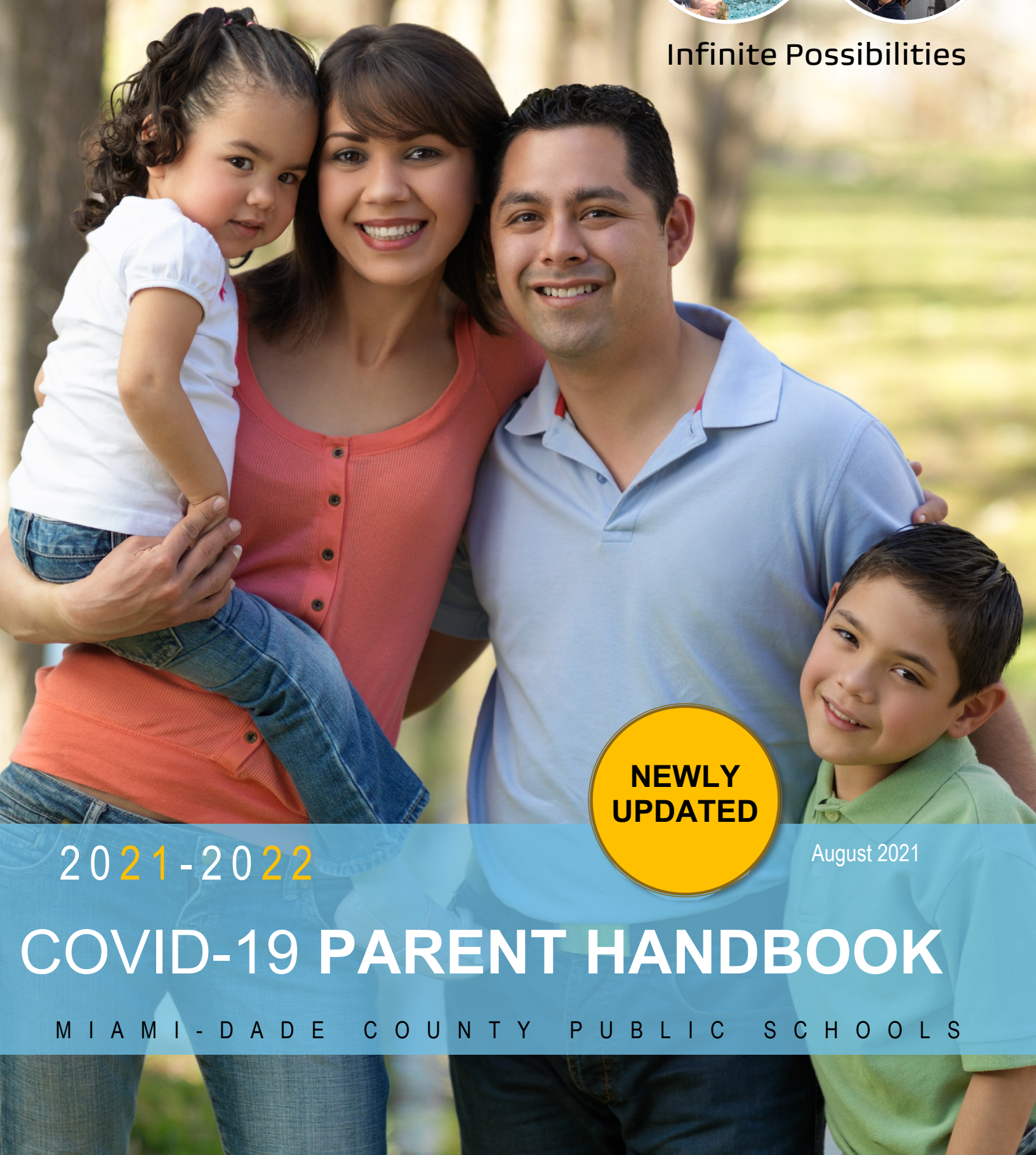




Infinite Possibilities



**NEWLY  
UPDATED**

2021-2022

August 2021

# COVID-19 PARENT HANDBOOK

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair**

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**Ms. Cori'anna White**  
Student Advisor



**Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho**  
Superintendent of Schools



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Alberto M. Carvalho

**Miami-Dade County School Board**

*Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair  
Lucia Baez-Geller  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
Christi Fraga  
Dr. Lubby Navarro  
Dr. Marta Pérez  
Mari Tere Rojas  
Luisa Santos*

August 2021

Dear Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parent/Guardian:

Over the past year, the students, families, and employees of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) have demonstrated considerable strength and perseverance as the world attempts to recover from the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As parents/guardians, you have been instrumental in partnering with our teachers to provide a stable educational environment, allowing our students to thrive in uncertain times. The COVID-19 Parent Handbook is an important resource containing vital COVID-19 information pertaining to the operation of M-DCPS. All policies were developed using the latest information provided by local, state, and federal health agencies.

As the 2021-2022 school year commences, M-DCPS will continue to monitor community conditions and consult with medical experts to review and further refine established health protocols. As always, you may contact your child's school should you have additional questions or visit [backtoschool.dadeschools.net](http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net) for additional information.

Let's continue to work together to safeguard the well-being of our children, thus ensuring their academic and personal success.

Sincerely,

Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools

AMC:dzf  
L108

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## How to Stay Informed – Support Lines

### M-DCPS Support Lines

<p><b>General Support Help Desk</b></p> <p>305-995-3000</p>	<p><b>Main School District Line</b></p> <p>305-995-1000</p>	<p><b>Adult and Career Technical Education</b></p> <p>305-558-8000</p>
<p><b>Employee Assistance Program</b></p> <p>305-995-7111</p>	<p><b>Student Mental Health Services</b></p> <p>305-995-7100</p>	<p><b>Project Up-Start</b></p> <p>305-995-1729</p>

### Region Centers

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is divided into three regions. Each region consists of a region superintendent and staff responsible for providing support and assistance to parents and students. Parents' questions or issues regarding their child's school that are not resolved at the school level may be addressed to a Region Center director. If the parents are not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal the decision to the Region Center superintendent. Questions relating to boundaries, attendance, and transfer policies can be answered at the Region Center. Addresses and telephone numbers of these offices are:

<p><b>NORTH REGION CENTER</b>  <a href="http://northregion.dadeschools.net">http://northregion.dadeschools.net</a></p> <p>733 East 57th Street          Hialeah, FL 33013          305-572-2800</p> <p><b>Region Superintendent:</b>          Dr. Verena Cabrera</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL REGION CENTER</b>  <a href="http://centralregion.dadeschools.net">http://centralregion.dadeschools.net</a></p> <p>5005 N.W. 112nd Avenue          Doral, FL 33178          305-499-5050</p> <p><b>Region Superintendent:</b>          Dr. Michael A. Lewis</p>	<p><b>SOUTH REGION CENTER</b>  <a href="http://southregionoffice.dadeschools.net">http://southregionoffice.dadeschools.net</a></p> <p>18180 S.W. 122nd Avenue          Miami, FL 33177          305-252-3041</p> <p><b>Region Superintendent:</b>          Ms. Barbara A. Mendizábal</p>
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## How to Stay Informed – Websites and Social Media



### Parent Portal

The portal will still be the primary place where parents will be able to access their child's grades and schedule. To access this, the parent's account must be linked to their child's. Parents can contact their child's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. Visit <http://www3.dadeschools.net/parents> or scan the QR code to the left to access the portal.



### Dadeschools Mobile App

Parents are encouraged to have their children linked to their account. Parents can contact their child's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. The App is available on both the App Store and Google Play.



### Back to School Website

The official back to school website will have the most up to date information including comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Scan the QR code to the left or visit <http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net/> to access the website.



### School Site

Parents are encouraged to follow the Twitter account of their child's school and visit the school's website. School contact information can be found on the District's [School Directory](#) website or by scanning the QR code to the left. Parents should also visit the District's [Eduvision channel](#) by scanning the QR code on the right.



### Social Media

Below are the social media sites and handles that the District will use to provide up-to-date information to parents and the community at large.



@MDCPS  
@EscuelasMDCPS  
@MiamiSUP



@MiamiSchools  
@MiamiSup



@MiamiSchools  
@AlbertoMCarvalho1



@MiamiSchools

## COVID-19 Information from Other Agencies

It is important to stay informed regarding COVID-19. The agencies listed below can provide you with up-to-date federal, state, and local information regarding COVID-19.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus 2021 Back to School Planning:** Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>



**Florida Department of Health:** The Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 | 1 (866) 779-6121 | [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov) Information directly related to schools and childcare may be found at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/schools/>



**Florida Department of Education (FDOE):** Information related to COVID-19, including links to approved district reopening plans and other guidance provided by the FDOE, may be found at <http://www.fdoe.org/em-response/index.shtml>



**Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Dashboard:** Information related to the latest local data, local emergency orders, and local guidelines may be found at <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page>



# Instructional Continuity During Quarantine

## Instruction During Quarantine

While a student is quarantined, every effort will be made to ensure that he/she continues to receive quality educational experiences from home. Specific instructional modalities used with a quarantined student may vary. Teachers may connect online with quarantined students during the instructional block to participate in classroom activities via web conferencing. Teachers may also opt to send home or post assignments for students, similar to when students are absent due to non-COVID-related illnesses. Regardless, time to complete all assignments missed during a quarantine will be provided to the student upon his/her return.

## Quarantine Instructions for Families

When schools notify parents of students impacted by a quarantine, school administrators will provide parents with school-specific instructions regarding academic activities, make up work, etc. Given that student schedules will differ from school to school and instructional modalities can differ from teacher to teacher, universal districtwide guidance is not available. Parents are urged to stay in contact with the school principal or assistant principal(s) with regards to quarantine instructions. Parents may also monitor the District's website at <http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net/> for updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Attendance Reporting for Quarantine Students

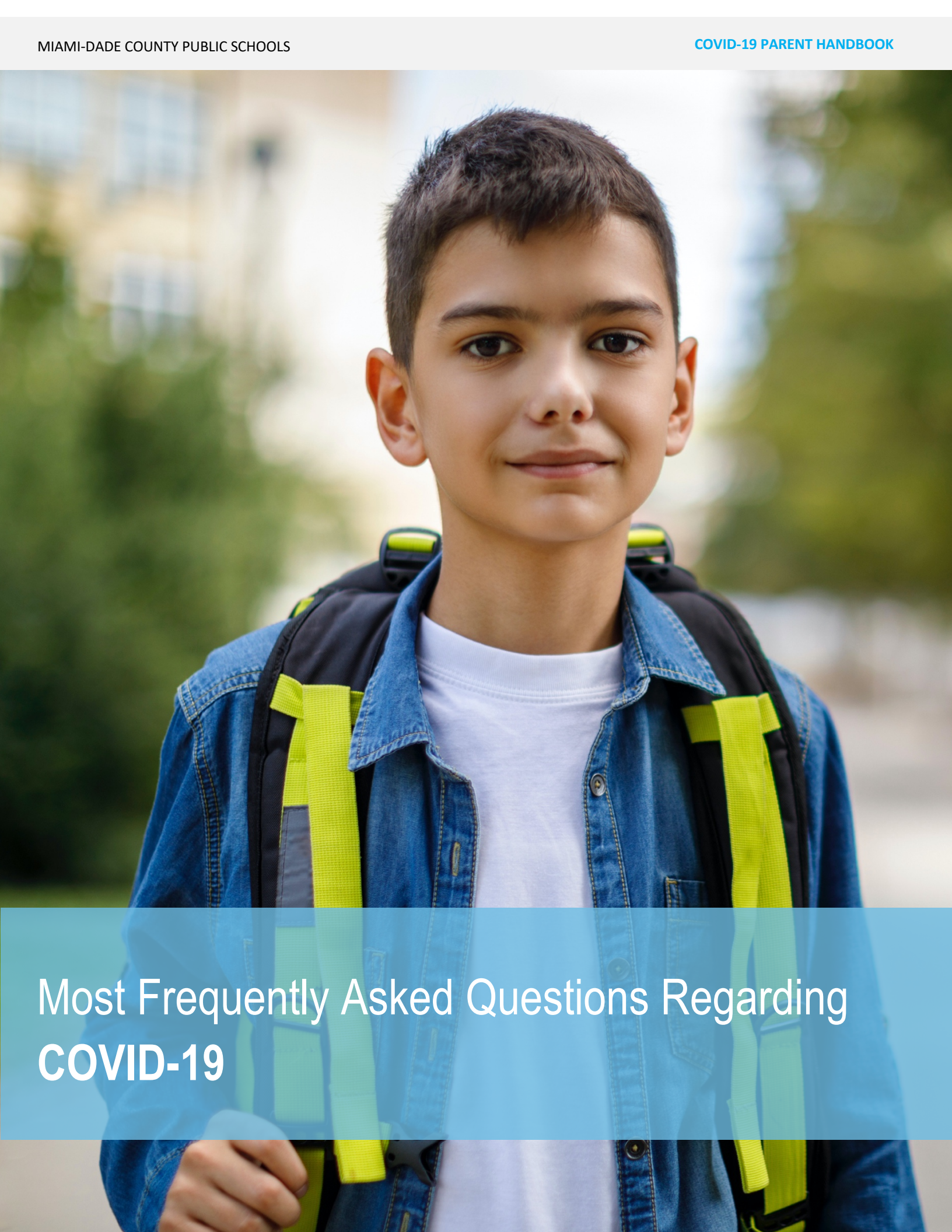
Students who are in quarantine are coded with an "S" (Special Note). This indicates that the days in quarantine are approved by the school site and the student will not be marked absent for the instructional day.

## Sibling Quarantine Procedure

Students are not automatically required to quarantine simply because a sibling has been identified as needing to quarantine. Once a student has been identified by school administrators, the District will initiate contact tracing protocols to determine if siblings also need to quarantine. Siblings who are identified to quarantine will receive instructions from their respective schools regarding instructional activities during quarantine and will follow the same attendance procedures referenced above.

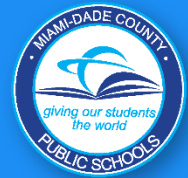


<h2>Quarantine Protocols</h2>	
<i>Quarantine Guidelines for non-vaccinated individuals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quarantine period is currently 10 days.</li> <li>• Asymptomatic individuals may end their quarantine after 10 days, without testing, and return to the school/worksite.</li> <li>• Quarantined individuals must continue to monitor their symptoms until 14 days after exposure.</li> <li>• If an individual develops symptoms, they must immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider.</li> <li>• During the quarantine and after they return to school/worksite, individuals should continue to follow all COVID-19 precautions such as wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, washing their hands, and avoiding crowds.</li> <li>• Protocols are currently being reviewed to provide options for shorter quarantine periods.</li> </ul>
<i>Quarantine Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals</i>	<p>Fully vaccinated students and employees will not need to quarantine and may remain at the school/worksite providing they meet <b>ALL</b> the following CDC criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two weeks have passed since:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) receiving a single dose vaccine, or</li> <li>2) the second dose in a two-dose series.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• They remain asymptomatic <i>after</i> the current COVID-19 exposure.</li> <li>• They do not reside in a group home.</li> <li>• Fully vaccinated employees and students will need to present their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to the principal or site administrator In the event they have been identified as a close contact.</li> </ul> <p>If a fully vaccinated individual does not meet <b>ALL</b> the above criteria, the quarantine protocol will be followed.</p>
<i>Quarantine Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals that Test Positive</i>	<p>Fully vaccinated students and employees that test positive during quarantine for COVID-19 must continue to self-isolate, notify the principal/site administrator, and contact their medical provider.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated students and employees that test positive for COVID-19 are required to follow the return to school and work procedures.</p>

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a blue denim jacket over a white t-shirt and a black backpack with yellow straps, stands outdoors with a blurred background of trees and buildings. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

# Most Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19

# 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](https://backtoschool.dadeschools.net).

## Will facial coverings be required at schools?

Face coverings are required for students, employees, parents, volunteers, and visitors while on school property and on school buses. Face coverings may be removed while outdoors as long as appropriate distance is maintained.

## 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 parents 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.

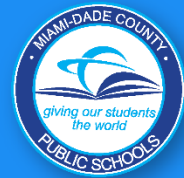
## What personal behaviors are expected of all students?

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 required for students, staff, and visitors when in the building. They may be removed during outdoor activities as long as appropriate distancing is maintained.
11. 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](https://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 (FDOH) in Miami-Dade County. The student will also be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

## 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 local health department will notify the District School Health Office (DSHO) when the student they confirmed was COVID-positive is cleared to return to school. The DSHO will then notify the school principal, who will in turn 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?

A fully vaccinated student will not need to quarantine and may remain at school provided they remain symptom-free since the current exposure to a COVID-19 confirmed positive or probable case, provide proof of vaccination and the student is not residing in a group home. Other CDC testing requirements also apply. Students who are not eligible for vaccination or who are not fully vaccinated will be required to quarantine in accordance with 2021-2022 quarantine protocols, which may be accessed at [backtoschool.dadeschools.net](http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net).

## 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 asked to leave the school setting due to COVID-19 will be provided class assignments and contact information for instructional staff who may provide assistance.

## **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.

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

An employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days before returning 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?**

A fully vaccinated employee will not need to quarantine and may remain at work provided they remain symptom-free since the current exposure to a COVID-19 confirmed positive or probable case and provide proof of vaccination. Other CDC testing requirements also apply. Employees who have not been vaccinated will be required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of the last contact with the person who has COVID-19. The employee can return to work on the 11th day if they are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have not tested positive for COVID-19.

## **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 will be required for all students and staff on board. 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.

Visit [backtoschool.dadeschools.net](https://backtoschool.dadeschools.net) to view the complete list of Frequently Asked Questions.



## Reporting Cases of COVID-19

# Reporting COVID-19 Status, Testing, and Vaccinations

## Students and Reporting COVID-19

Students/Parents/Guardians are required to report their COVID-19 status to school administrators and follow established District quarantine guidelines. If you have questions, please contact the school administrator.

## Student Testing for COVID-19

The District has partnered with the University of Miami Health System's Pediatric Mobile Clinic to offer FREE COVID-19 testing for all children in Miami-Dade County, ages 4-18. The Pediatric Mobile Clinic will conduct COVID-19 testing at select schools on designated days between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Information regarding the host school locations and testing schedule is provided by host schools (testing sites) to nearby schools for dissemination to parents. Additionally, information advising parents of testing sites has been made available to parents via School Messenger voice messages, emails, and social media outlets. To make an appointment, parents are urged to call 305-243-2059. Walk-ups are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and identification (ID) is not required.

## COVID-19 Vaccination for Students

All eligible students are urged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The District has partnered with the University of Miami Health System's Pediatric Mobile Clinic and the Florida Department of Health to offer FREE COVID-19 vaccines to eligible students at select schools on designated days and times. Information advising parents of the vaccine sites has been made available to parents on the District's website, via School Messenger voice messages and emails, and via social media outlets. As information is received regarding the availability of vaccinations for children, District websites and documents will be updated to reflect new vaccination protocols.



# Parent/Guardian's At-Home Daily Student Health Screening





## Parent/Guardian's At-Home Daily Student Health Screening



We remain in the midst of a pandemic, and having your child stay home when they are ill, experiencing signs and symptoms of a communicable disease, and/or when a non-vaccinated child has come into close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, is critical to minimizing the spread of illness to others. In fact, it could make the difference between disease control and outbreak.

Prior to sending your child to school each morning, parents/guardians are being asked to conduct the At-Home Daily Student Health Screening to determine if it is safe for your child to attend school.

### SECTION 1 – COVID-19 EXPOSURE & SYMPTOMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has your non-vaccinated child been in close contact (within 6 feet) with someone who has a confirmed positive or pending COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has your child or anyone in your household been tested for COVID-19 (because they were experiencing symptoms, were in close contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19) and are awaiting results?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is your child currently ill with COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### SECTION 2 – SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS – PAST 48 HOURS

Has your child experienced or is experiencing any of the following signs or symptoms listed below in the past 48 hours?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever (100.4°F or higher)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough ( <b>New</b> uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing) (For students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, <b>a change in their cough different from their baseline.</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle or Body Aches	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of taste or smell	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion, runny nose	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Rash, Red Eyes, Cracked/Swollen lips, Red Swollen Tongue, Swelling hands/ feet, stomach pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### SECTION 3 – TEMPERATURE CHECK

<input type="checkbox"/>	What is your child's current temperature this morning?	
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### SECTION 4 – NEXT STEPS – IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SYMPTOMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	If you answer "yes" to any of the above, or your child's temperature is 100.4 °F (37.5°C) or higher, please <b>do not</b> send your child to school.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	You should contact your child's health care provider immediately. <b>DON'T WAIT FOR SYMPTOMS TO WORSEN!</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having these symptoms alone does not mean that your child has a contagious disease or has the virus, but <b>ONLY</b> a health care provider can determine that.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify the principal at your child's school of their symptoms.	

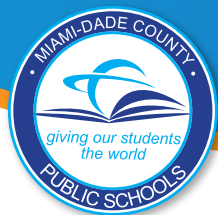
### SECTION 5 – GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Keep your child(ren) home if they are ill, this includes students who have been fully-vaccinated and he or she should remain home for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> At least 24 hours have passed <i>since symptoms have resolved</i>;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Free of fever <b>without</b> the use of fever-reducing medications;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); <b>and/or</b> at least 10 days have passed <i>since symptoms first appeared</i>;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue practice health hygiene, handwashing, face covering, maintaining appropriate distance/space.</li> </ul>
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Revised 07-26-21



# Back-to-School Checklist



# Back-to-School Checklist



## REGISTRATION

Families are urged to register their children early to avoid processing delays. The **FIRST** day of school at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is August 23, 2021. For more information, visit <http://attendanceservices.dadeschools.net/>.



## DADESCHOOLS MOBILE APP

The recently updated Dadeschools Mobile app is a one-stop shop for parents. Access important information including class schedules, school grades, District news and much more. Download the free app to your iPhone or Android device.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students will need essential school supplies. Parents should check their child's school website or contact the school for supply lists.



## MEALS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it would extend the meals flexibility waiver, allowing M-DCPS to serve free breakfast and lunch to enrolled children throughout the entire 2021-2022 school year.



## SCHOOL ZONES

Slow down, stay alert and stop for buses. Observe the 15-mph school speed limit.



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Get to know your child's teachers at the beginning of the school year. Request an in-person or virtual meeting with them to share important information about your child and to ask how to best support their learning at home. Consider joining a parent organization like the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or volunteering at your child's school. Speak to your child's principal for more information on PTA or email [info@mdccpta.net](mailto:info@mdccpta.net). To find out how you can become a school volunteer, visit <https://www.engagemiamidade.net/volunteers>.



## HOTLINES

Adult and Career/Technical Education: 305-558-8000  
Mental Health Services for students/parents: 305-995-7100  
Project UP-START for students experiencing unstable housing: 305-995-7558



## FACIAL COVERINGS

Facial coverings will be mandatory at all school sites and District offices. Masks do not need to be worn during outdoor activities so long as appropriate physical distancing is maintained.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

M-DCPS has the ability to communicate accurately and efficiently with parents through voice, text, and email messages. It's important that your child's school has the most current contact information. Parents can update their details by contacting their child's principal. They may also opt in for emergency text messages by texting "Y" to 67587 on their mobile device.



## IMMUNIZATIONS

Parents are urged to check their children's immunization records to see if they are due for any mandated school entry vaccines. All M-DCPS students are required to have the mandatory school age vaccines for the 2021-2022 school year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends everyone 12 years and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against this virus.



## UNIFORMS

The uniform policy will be enforced. Contact your child's school to find out more.



## BUS ASSIGNMENTS

Find out bus route information ahead of time. If you live two miles away from your assigned school, your child may be eligible for bus services.



## AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

M-DCPS offers many after-school care programs. Contact your child's school to find out more.



## SAFETY FIRST

Prevention! Prevention! Prevention! Urge your child to say something if they see something suspicious. Anonymous tips can be reported to 305-995-COPS (2677) or on the FortifyFL app, available at [getfortifyfl.com](http://getfortifyfl.com).

Updated as of August 19, 2021



## Anti-Discrimination Policy

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

**Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended** - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. M-DCPS does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates as required by Title IX. M-DCPS also does not discriminate on the basis of sex in admissions or employment.

**Age Discrimination Act of 1975** - prohibits discrimination based on age in programs or activities.

**Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40 years old.

**The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended** - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

**The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA)** - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons.

**The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978** - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

**Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA)** - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

**Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992** - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

**Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)** - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

**Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002** – No public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

**Veterans** are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

**In Addition:**

**School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517** - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, sex/gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.