

CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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September 2021

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M-DCPS ANNOUNCES REVISED QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS FOR EMPLOYEES AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



September 20, 2021, COVID-19 quarantine protocols have been updated as follows:

Upon direct contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, unvaccinated high school students and employees may return to the school/work site provided they meet both of these criteria:

- They provide a negative PCR test result taken on or after day five since exposure, and
- They are asymptomatic.

For unvaccinated students and employees who do not provide a negative PCR test result on or after five days of exposure or are not asymptomatic, it is recommended they continue to follow the quarantine protocol of 10 days since exposure.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has not wavered in its commitment to prioritize the health and wellbeing of its students and employees, by continuously working with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), local health officials and experts in the development of protocols. Data points being monitored include the number of positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 individuals in the local population, new hospital

admissions due to COVID-19, and the number of local intensive care unit (ICU) and non-ICU hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.

The District's Ad Hoc Health and Medical Experts Task Force was consulted regarding a targeted reduction in the quarantine period for all employees and high school students.

Based on the Task Force's medical guidance, beginning on Monday,

PARENT E-TIPS

Communicating with Teachers

<https://bit.ly/38OIBFq>



Fully vaccinated students and employees will not need to quarantine and may remain at their school/worksite providing they meet ALL of the following

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria:

- Two weeks have passed since:
 - Receiving a single dose of vaccine, or
 - The second dose in a two-dose series.
- They remain asymptomatic after the current COVID-19 exposure.
- They do not reside in a group home.

Additionally, the District will be seeking input from the FDOH

and the Task Force regarding local COVID-19 conditions and relevant criteria that would enable adjustments to the current facial-covering protocol. COVID-19 information is continuously evolving. M-DCPS will continue to collaborate with the FDOH and local medical experts to ensure that parents and our community remain well informed through news media, regular social media posts, school-to-home communications, and our website at <https://backtoschool.dadeschools.net/>.

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH AT M-DCPS



Every September, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) observes Attendance Awareness Month to promote the importance of attendance and engagement for academic success. M-DCPS recognizes the attendance-related issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we continue to encourage students and staff to stay home when following quarantining protocols and when sick as an essential way to slow the spread of respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19; we

want to reiterate the importance of showing up to school when conditions allow.

Parents are essential partners in promoting good attendance. Below are some tips on what you can do to keep your child present, engaged and learning.

- Speak with your child about the importance of showing up to school.
- Notice and support your child if they are showing signs of

anxiety, listen to their concerns and ask the school staff for help.

- Contact your child's teacher and provide them your updated contact information so they can easily reach you. Share any concerns you might have and ask for help when you need it.
- Monitor your child's attendance and sign up for notifications through the Dadeschools Parent Portal by clicking on the View Grades & Attendance button.
- Make school attendance a priority. Establish routines for bedtime, waking up, and showing up. Don't let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick.

Whether attending school in person, or via virtual school, it is important to **#ShowUpMDCPS**.

IMPORTANCE OF THE FLU VACCINE



The CDC also recommends everyone 12 years and older receive a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19. Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit the state's vaccine locator site at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator/> for the latest information on available vaccine providers.

As we approach the upcoming flu season in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses.

As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the BEST way to prevent the seasonal flu is to get an annual flu vaccine.

- Everyone who is six months of age or older can receive the flu vaccine.

- Make plans to get the flu vaccine early this Fall.
- Flu season peaks from December to early March.

Getting the flu vaccine does not prevent you from getting COVID-19. Contact your medical provider to schedule an appointment or the Florida Department of Health at (786) 845-0550, which will provide FREE flu vaccines for all children under 18.

Through partnerships with the University of Miami Health System Pediatric Mobile Clinic and the Florida Department of Health, M-DCPS continues to offer COVID-19 testing, school-required vaccines and the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible students at various schools throughout the District. For a listing all the vaccination locations, dates and times visit <https://bit.ly/3IJEu2w>.

M-DCPS AWARDED FUNDING TO OPERATE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS IN 31 SCHOOLS



Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been awarded funding to operate Head Start/Early Head Start programs in 31 schools across the District, by the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded, community-based program provided in partnership with Miami-Dade County for income eligible families with infants and toddlers. The EHS program supports the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development of each child, and empowers families in developing goals for themselves and their children. Early Head Start services are available at six schools throughout the county for children from birth to three years of age.

Head Start is a federally funded program for children ages 3-5 years from income eligible families. The children participate in a variety of educational activities, receive child

development, health and nutrition screenings; free healthy meals and snacks; and also enjoy playing in a safe and engaging learning environment.

Applications for enrollment for both programs are accepted year-round. For more information, registration requirements, online applications and a full listing of program sites, visit headstart.dadeschools.net/ or www.miamidade.gov/headstart; or contact the Department of Early Childhood Programs, at 305-995-7632.



STAY CONNECTED!



The backtoschool.dadeschools.net website is a hub for information regarding District’s plans for the 2021-2022 school year. Visit frequently for updates to District programs, policies, and procedures for the 2021-2022 school year.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

October 1
Magnet Application Period Opens

October 29
Teacher Planning Day – No School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

October 20
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) prides itself on communicating quickly and efficiently with parents through automated voice, email, text messages and via social media.

Accurate and up-to-date contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses, are critical to receiving important outreach and emergency messages from the District and individual schools. Parents can update their information by contacting their child’s school.

Families wishing to receive emergency information from their child’s school and the District

through text messages must opt-in by texting “Y” to 67587.

The Dadeschools Mobile app is another available resource that serves as a one-stop-shop for parents to receive valuable information such as class schedules, student grades, and much more. The application is available for download for free on any mobile device via the [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#) store.

Families are also invited to follow M-DCPS on social media for up-to-the-minute District updates, resources, and valuable information. Follow us on Twitter at @MDCPS or @EscuelasMDCPS and on Facebook and Instagram at @miamischools.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@MDCPS
@EscuelasMDCPS
@MiamiSup



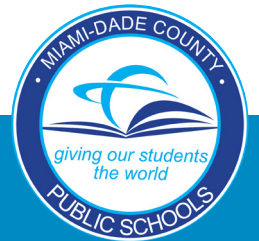
@MiamiSchools
@AlbertoMCarvalho1



@MiamiSchools
@MiamiSup



@MiamiSchools



www.dadeschools.net

Stay connected with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Make sure you follow us on social media for the latest news and updates regarding the school district. #MDCPSConnects

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