

**BRIAN KATZ**  
**CHIEF SAFETY & SECURITY OFFICER**

**DIVISION OF SAFETY, SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**Signatures on File**

April 12, 2021

TO: All Staff  
FROM: Brian Katz  
Chief Safety & Security Officer

Antoine L. Hickman, Ed.D., Chief Officer  
Student Support Initiatives & Recovery (SSI&R)

SUBJECT: **UPDATED COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION, QUARANTINE AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING PROCEDURES**



**ACTION:** This memo provides updated information on COVID-19 health and safety protocols. It is important that you and your staff review this document.

**RATIONALE:** The District aims to ensure that school personnel and staff are knowledgeable of COVID-19 procedures. It is recommended that everyone responsible for schools and staff, review the following updated COVID-19 guidance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed updated [guidance](#) for prevention strategies that K–12 school administrators can use to help protect students, teachers and staff, and slow the spread of COVID-19.

This guidance provides an operational strategy for safe delivery of in-person instruction in K–12 schools through the integration of a package of prevention and control components:

**Updated Self-Isolation and Quarantine Procedures**

For positive or symptomatic individuals, the District criteria for return to work/school is still one negative PCR test.

- If positive, a negative PCR result obtained 10 days after initial positive result or symptom onset is required and should be provided to administration to return to school/work.

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- If symptomatic, a negative PCR result is required and should be provided to administration to return to the location. If no test is performed, individual must remain out for 14 days from symptom onset and return on the 15th day if symptoms have subsided and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If identified as a close contact/exposed you must quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure and return on the 15th day as long as you remain asymptomatic. If you develop symptoms during your 14-day quarantine, a negative PCR result is required and should be provided to administration to return to school/work.
- Everyone should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school/work.
- A note from a healthcare provider will no longer be required for return to school/work.
- Schools should check for siblings/relative in other BCPS sites and report to Department of Health (DOH), Risk Management and Coordinated Student Health Services (CSHS).

***Please note – the guidance from the Florida Department of Health and the CDC may be slightly less restrictive than this District guidance. District guidance has been determined based on current local conditions and careful consultation with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.***

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or
- $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance.

Additionally, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine if exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

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There may be individual circumstances where someone continues to test positive after they are no longer infectious. Based on information from the CDC and the Florida Department of Health, there may be EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Individuals who continue to test positive on a PCR test, may return to school/work if they meet the following criteria:

- 14 days has elapsed from date of symptom onset or initial date tested (PCR test)
- Individual must be asymptomatic

Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

Note: These recommendations do not apply to persons with severe COVID-19 or with severely weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). These persons should follow [the guidance from CDC](#) for: "I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?"

### **Updated Physical Distancing Guidelines**

Several studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students and staff, and among students, in schools.

#### **For Students in Classrooms:**

- Elementary schools: The distance between students may be changed to a minimum of 3-feet. If 6-foot distancing is available it should be maintained to reduce the quarantine impact resulting from close contact exposure, but 3-6 feet apart is acceptable. The 3-foot distance is only relevant to the spacing of the desks when in class. All students must wear face coverings when in class. As indicated by the CDC, the 6-foot distance between students should not change when eating or playing.
- Any school or class that reduces the distance between desks during class will need to develop a seating chart and all students must sit in their assigned seats. This needs to be done for contact tracing purposes should a student in class test positive for COVID-19. **Please use the attached diagram to assist with this process.**

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- Middle and high school: The distance between students should remain at 6-feet if cohorting is not possible (see definition for cohorting below). Where it is not possible to maintain 6-feet of distance, there must be at a minimum 3-feet of distance between individuals.
- School Activities/Athletics: The distance between students should remain at 6 feet apart (unless otherwise previously communicated by the District).

**A cohort or pod is a distinct group that stays together throughout the entire school day during in-person learning, or over the course of any pre-determined period of time, so that there is minimal or no interaction between groups.**

**In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums:**

- Use [cohorting](#), and maintain 6 feet of distance between cohorts where possible. Limit contact between cohorts. Broward County is currently considered to be an area of high (red) level community transmission. As such, cohorting is recommended for any schools that use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms. Six feet of distance should continue to be maintained between cohorts. Should the level of community transmission change, this guidance may be updated.
- Remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts to maximize the distance between students.
- Face furniture and seating in the same direction, where possible.
- Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.

**Six feet of distance between individuals must be maintained in the following settings:**

- Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building unless enhanced PPE is being utilized (ESE student services, early childhood classes, list others).
- When face coverings cannot be worn, such as when eating.
- During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.



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**Visitors:** Continue to [limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities](#) involving external groups or organizations as much as possible—especially with people who are not from the local geographic area (for example, not from the same community, town, city, county). Continue to require all visitors to wear face coverings and physically distance from others.

**Transportation:** Guidance has not changed regarding student transportation. Continue to create distance between children on school buses (for example, seat children one child per row, skip rows), when possible. [Face coverings are required](#) by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States. Open windows to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard. More information about school transportation and prevention is available.

Additional guidance from the CDC is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor\\_1616080084165](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080084165)

For questions or additional information:

Students: Please contact the Coordinated Student Health Services Department via email at [COVID19Nurse@browardschools.com](mailto:COVID19Nurse@browardschools.com).

Staff: Please contact the Risk Management Department via email at [theresa.coleman@browardschools.com](mailto:theresa.coleman@browardschools.com).

VSW/BK/ALH/TN/AAH/MB/KB:tc  
Attachment (1)

c: SLT  
Area Security Managers  
Campus Security Managers