



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

January 6, 2021

The School District received updated guidelines from the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County regarding students who display COVID symptoms on our campuses. The Health Department stated the change in guidelines are due to the increase in cases currently being reported in our county.

Prior to the December 2020 holiday break, if a student displayed COVID symptoms at school, the student was isolated from other students and their parents were contacted to pick them up. In addition, the student was referred for medical evaluation and testing. If the student's symptoms improved and they had no exposures or close contact with a person confirmed with COVID, they were allowed to return to school if they were symptom and fever free for at least 24 hours.

That has changed due to widespread transmission of COVID-19.

Starting January 6, 2021, students who display COVID symptoms at school will continue to be isolated and their parents will be called; however, as per the Florida Department of Health, they will not be allowed to return to school until the following conditions are met:

- Evidence of a negative COVID test (Rapid or PCR test) **AND** symptoms have improved (i.e.: fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and able to participate in learning activities); **OR**
- Documentation from medical provider that the student may return to school (i.e.: a Dr's note).

As per the Florida Department of Health, if the family opts not to seek medical assessment or testing, the student will not be allowed to return to school until the following conditions by the Department of Health are met:

- At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared **AND**
- The student has been fever-free for a minimum of 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
- Student symptoms have improved.

Please note that your child's privacy is protected under HIPAA guidelines and the School District will protect privacy to the fullest extent of the law.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets which are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Symptoms may appear 2 to 10 days after exposure to the virus. The most common symptoms associated with COVID-19 are fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Please monitor your child for worsening symptoms.

If you have questions, please contact your child's school for guidance.

Thank you for your help and cooperation as we do everything we can to keep our students and schools healthy and safe.

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