



**Florida School for
the Deaf & the Blind**

Do More. Be More. Achieve More.

September 23, 2021

Hello FSDB Community,

On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the Florida State Surgeon General signed into effect Emergency Rule 64DER21-15 which sets new protocols for controlling COVID-19 in school settings. The FSDB Health & Safety webpage is revised to reflect this update.

We thank you for your patience and understanding. We know this year has not been easy for many of our FSDB families and staff members. It is our goal to provide timely communication and information to our FSDB community.

Please see the Florida Department of Education [2021-22 School Year Protocols for Controlling COVID-19](#) and the Department of Health [Emergency rule 64DER21-15 Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings](#).

The following procedures shall be instituted to govern the control of COVID-19 in public schools:

1. Schools will have routine cleaning of classrooms and high-traffic areas.
2. Students will be encouraged to have routine hand washing throughout the day.
3. Students will stay home if they are sick.
4. Schools may have requirements for students to wear masks or face coverings, however, the school must allow for parents or legal guardians of the students to opt-out of wearing a face covering or mask.

Protocol #1: Symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students

If a student is experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or has a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 (A diagnostic test is not a home test - it must be a rapid test or PCR test), the student is not permitted to attend school, any school-sponsored activities, or be on school property until one of the following occurs:

1. The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; or
2. 10 days has passed since the onset of symptoms or a positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
3. The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor.

Protocol #2: Students with exposure to COVID-19 (Direct Contact)

Parents or legal guardians of a student who has been in direct contact with an individual who has a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 may choose one of the following options:

1. Allow the student to attend school, school sponsored activities, or be on school property, without restrictions or disparate treatment, as long as the student remains asymptomatic.
2. Quarantine the student for a period of time not to exceed seven days from the date of last direct contact with an individual who is positive for COVID-19.

Please note: If a student becomes symptomatic following a direct contact with an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, or the student tests positive for COVID-19, the first protocol explained above for symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students shall be followed.

Wishing you continued health and safety for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Tracie C. Snow
President