



Dear Parents,

As COVID-19 (currently classified as a pandemic) spreads in the United States, districts, and schools, please know that we are closely monitoring the virus and following the current guidance from the leading government and health authorities. The public reaction to COVID-19 increases daily and the Florida Conference Office of Education has been and will continue to forward updates to us as they become available from the NAD, CDC, and other governmental agencies.

Please take note of the following items, as currently, ***we plan to continue regular school and center operations while preparing for and monitoring conditions that might dictate alternate strategies.***

1. Following the recommendation by the Florida Commissioner of Education, any trips involving airfare, regardless of the destination, are to be canceled or postponed until further notice.
2. We will follow ***the local county's directives*** regarding the closing of our school as a preventative measure in slowing the spread of COVID-19.
3. Our staff is being vigilant with themselves and students in practicing hygienic protocols.
4. **If your child is sick, do not send them to school!** We will be strictly enforcing our sick policy, as well as any other mandates from the CDC. Children must be kept home if they are sick. Children with a fever of 99.5 degrees and or symptoms stated above will be sent home and not be admitted back until the student is fever and symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Informed Communications on COVID-19

In coordination with the FDOH and the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), FDOE recommends the following sources and best practices to assist with community mitigation and preparedness.

Schools, Childcare Centers, school districts, colleges, and universities are encouraged to contact their local health department for the most up-to-date information and assistance regarding COVID-19. County health departments are fully integrated with the FDOH and the CDC and are well equipped to respond if necessary.

Helpful information can also be found at the following websites:

- FDOH: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- FDOE: <http://fldoe.org/em-response/>

Please see this helpful flyer from the CDC on stopping the spreading of germs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

Please visit FDOH's dedicated COVID-19 webpage <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/> for guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida.

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the FDOH's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling **1-(866) 779-6121**. The Call Center is available **24 hours a day**. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

About COVID-19

- COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes. These droplets may land on objects and surfaces. Other people may contract COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure. Most people recover from COVID-19 without needing special treatment. The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems, and diabetes, are more likely to develop severe illness.
- Recent reports have stated that, on average, symptoms of COVID-19 develop in 5 days.
- CDC said most confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from China have occurred in adults, and infection among children was relatively uncommon.
- CDC has said transmission of coronavirus to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Current evidence suggests coronavirus may remain viable on surfaces for only two hours, made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for the prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.
- CDC does not recommend that asymptomatic, healthy people wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the virus to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Again, Florida is at a low-risk. Florida is in a constant state of preparation to respond to COVID-19, and FDOE is available to assist as needed. Daily updates will be posted on the FDOH website, <http://www.floridahealth.gov/> and the FDOE website <http://www.fldoe.org/>

We will continue to monitor events in the state, country, and world and will commit to keeping the lines of communication open with you at this time.

Finally, let us continue to stay strong in our faith and purpose, knowing that through every situation and crisis, our Heavenly Father sees and cares.

Nieves F. Jenkins