

8450 - CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

June 27, 2017

Last Revised

November 10, 2020

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- A. The School Board recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease spread through casual contact is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient District operation.

For purposes of this policy, "casual-contact communicable disease" shall include diphtheria, scarlet fever and other strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and/or others designated by the Florida Department of Public Health.

In order to protect the health and safety of the students, District personnel, and the community at large, the Board shall follow all State statutes and Health Department regulations which pertain to immunization (see also Policy 5320) and other means for controlling communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting.

If a student exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease, then the Principal will isolate the student in the building, contact the school nurse, and attempt to contact the parents. Isolation of a student means the separation of a student who is reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease from individuals who are not infected to prevent the possible spread of the disease. The District will follow directives from the Florida Health of Health in Manatee County regarding notification of that department when a student appears to have, or have been, exposed to a communicable disease, as well as directives from the Manatee County Health Department regarding whether or not the student should be excluded from school for a prescribed period of time.

- B. Face covering/masks are optional unless otherwise required. Beginning on June 7, 2021, face coverings for all employees, students, and visitors will be optional which includes summer school programs and the 2021-2022 School Year. However, in order to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all employees, students, and visitors, the School Board authorizes the Superintendent to require face coverings if the 7-day positivity rate in Manatee County of a said communicable disease reaches 8%* or higher in Manatee County or a high concentration in a specific school or group setting like athletics/club activities. Face coverings will be worn at all times for at least 10 consecutive calendar days or more if the positivity rate remains above the 8% threshold. This section is in order to implement immediate mitigation measures during a pandemic, the School Board hereby mandates that all employees, visitors, and students wear a face mask while on school property, facilities, school buses and/or engaged in school activities in accordance with the District's policies, procedures, and protocols, as well as all applicable laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq., § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq. and/or any other applicable Federal, State or local law.

~~B-C.~~ *Threshold used by the Manatee County Department of Health

Section B of this Policy shall only take effect by a majority vote of the Board and will remain in effect until the majority of the Board votes otherwise.

The Board will revisit this section at least every ninety (90) days.

Revised 8/14/20

Revised 11/10/20

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