

8450 - CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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.

As part of emergency procedures to be implemented by Federal, State, and Local officials related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Florida Department of Health recommend that everyone wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth to help prevent community spread

of this virus. The State of Florida is currently under Executive Order by the Governor declaring COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency, the Florida Commissioner of Education has issued an Emergency Order recognizing this public health emergency, and the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners has issued an Emergency Resolution requiring the use of face coverings inside buildings.

Therefore, in order to implement immediate mitigation measures during this 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, outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") current guidance¹ 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.

¹As of August 14, 2020, the current CDC guidance is dated August 11, 2020 titled "Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in School"