

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

Co-Sponsors:	Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair	}	A D D E D
	Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller		
	Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall		
	Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas		
	Ms. Luisa Santos		

SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT AND SCHOOL COVID-19 DASHBOARD

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains committed to the health, safety, and wellness of its employees, parents, community stakeholders, and most importantly its students. As the community, state, nation, and world continues to wrestle with the significant and adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently, the Delta variant, school systems around the nation including Miami-Dade continue to grapple with the provision of safe and healthy learning and working environments for its employees and students in anticipation of the 2021-2022 opening of schools and return to in-person learning.

In anticipation of the return of students and employees to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year, M-DCPS, as well as districts throughout the state of Florida, are being faced with an unprecedented increase in COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated and even the vaccinated in rare instances. In fact, Florida reported 21,683 new COVID-19 cases as of July 30, 2021, the single-highest daily COVID-19 case count since the pandemic began 18 months ago, according to Center for Disease Control data. The seven-day moving average soared to 15,817 on July 30th, a more than 750% increase since July 1. The patients filling hospitals at an alarming rate are different than in the past. They're younger, and healthier. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the patients are unvaccinated. This year, as the Delta variant of the virus rampages through the state, Florida hospitals have added more than 7,000 new COVID-19 patients in just 21 days. The state's hospitals are filling up. According to a spokesperson for the Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida, nearly 84% of the state's inpatient hospital beds were in use on July 30th and nearly 86% of its intensive care unit beds. COVID-19 patients make up about one-third of the people admitted to intensive care. Both inpatient and intensive care usage rates are approaching the state's overall pandemic peak from last July, leaving short-staffed hospitals scrambling.

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Local and State officials have stressed the importance of the vaccine as a critical tool to fight the virus, but more residents need to get vaccinated. Vaccines have been widely available to Floridians as young as 12 for months. They have been proven, in the overwhelming majority of cases, to prevent a person from suffering the worst effects of the virus.

Recently, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reversed prior guidance on facial coverings recommending that vaccinated people should wear masks indoors in areas where COVID-19 is spreading---listing Miami-Dade County as having the highest level of community transmission of COVID-19. According to recent county statistics, about one out of every ten COVID-19 tests are currently coming back positive in Miami-Dade County, an increase from a positivity rate of less than 3% in the middle of June 2021. Jackson Health System, Miami-Dade County's public hospital reported three times more patients with COVID-19 this week than it saw at the beginning of July 2021. On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava issued an Executive Order 02-21, reinstituting the requirement that each hospital report to the Miami-Dade COVID-19 Reporting Hub once a day, certain statistics related to the County's COVID-19 dashboard. In addition, Mayor Levine Cava mandated masks inside all County facilities regardless of an individual's vaccination status.

The School Board, Superintendent, staff, and community stakeholders, such as the panel of Medical Experts, have all taken bold, deliberate steps to inform, protect, and ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID-19 informational dashboard was established to provide critically important information regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst employees in the district. However, the M-DCPS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard states, that "as of June 11, 2021, the dashboard will no longer be updated."

Despite the commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts of the District there remains both an opportunity and obligation to review, clarify, and improve plans, processes, and procedures for COVID-19 identification, notification, and quarantining across the District and amongst all stakeholders including employees, parents, community members, and most importantly students.

As M-DCPS both plans for the safe and orderly return to in person learning and related issues, the collection and provision of relevant data regarding the COVID-19 confirmed cases in the District must also be a requisite part of the planning process. Such data should be collected and made available and kept as current as possible on an easily accessible M-DCPS COVID-19 Dashboard. Such information should include but not be limited to the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases for overall school district and categorized by school and school level (elementary, middle, K-8, Senior High, Adult/Alternative/Vocational), voting district, district/region office, employees, students (where available/legal/appropriate), and contractors working on district/school facilities.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to re/establish an easily accessible M-DCPS COVID-19 Dashboard with data and relevant information that include but are not limited to the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases for overall school District and categorized by school and school level (elementary, middle, K-8, senior high, Adult/Alternative/Vocational), voting district, District/Region Office, employees, students (where available/legal/appropriate), and contractors working on district/school facilities.

This item has been reviewed by the School Board Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. re-establish an easily accessible M-DCPS COVID-19 Dashboard with data and relevant information that include but are not limited to the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases for overall school District and categorized by school and school level (elementary, middle, K-8, senior high, Adult/Alternative/Vocational), voting district, District/Region office, employees, students (where available/legal/appropriate), and contractors working on District/school facilities, to be active for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, where practicable; and
2. provide a status update in writing to the School Board no later than August 19, 2021.