

## **NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF A CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK**

The School District of Nassau County will take all necessary steps to ensure the health of our students and staff. We rely on the Center for Disease Control, CDC, to provide us with the most up-to-date and accurate information available. In addition, we communicate several times each day with the Health Department of Nassau County about all health-related matters.

In addition to the daily communication, Nassau has developed a surveillance instrument that is submitted each week from every school's clinic to the Health Department. The **941 Florida Department of Health in Nassau County Public School Weekly Reporting Form** is monitored by the epidemiologists of the Health Department of Nassau County. The epidemiologists look for trends in several categories such as "Influenza-like-Illness", ILI, and "Gastro-Illness", GI. When there is an identified increase in ILI at a school, those students are sent home with instructions for medical follow-up. The Health Department crafts a letter that is sent home to the parents of students in the identified classrooms. Besides notice of the contained outbreak, are instructions to those parents to monitor their children for symptoms. The classrooms where the increase was identified are given specific cleaning to help eliminate further spread of the ILI. It is this full and complete communication with the most knowledgeable medical resources available the district utilizes to keep our students and staff safe.

The "Prevent RESPIRATORY ILLNESS" and "caught the flu" posters issued by the CDC are placed in bathrooms, clinics and other strategic locations on each campus. In response to the international outbreak of the Coronavirus, these posters will be redistributed to all locations for additional posting. The "School Guidance How to Clean and Disinfect Schools to Help Slow the Spread of Flu", also published by the CDC, will be forwarded to all custodial staff.

School district nurses and Health Aides are trained what to do when a student presents him/herself with flu-like symptoms. When appropriate, a student may be issued a mask and a parent called. The parent is provided with basic

instructions and asked for their child to see a physician. To prevent further spread of an infection, students are not to come back to school until they have been fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours.

In the event of a Coronavirus epidemic, national and state guidelines to address it would likely provide extensive instructions for school districts. To expedite the district's response, the district has developed a letter that can be distributed to parents and the general public to keep them informed of disease spread and steps to be taken.

The school district will join the Nassau Emergency Operations Center, EOC, in their state-wide conference calls on medical emergency preparation. This call takes place each Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. One of the many aspects of this call, is the Human Resources facilitation of personnel in the event of widespread employee absences. Furthermore, the district will work with the EOC as each agency designs their Continuing Operation Plan, COOP, a procedure for long-term services in the event of a medical emergency. It will be designed around the procedures identified when dealing with the Avian Flu a few years ago.

In addition, the school district will take steps in confirmed cases of the Coronavirus to ensure students are not held to normal attendance requirements. If it becomes necessary, the school district will close schools and adjust attendance zones to keep schools operating. If the crisis continues, the district is prepared to explore virtual or tele-school instruction.

If a staff member or an immediate family member for whom the staff member is a caretaker has a confirmed case of Coronavirus, the days required for recovery will not be counted toward their allotted sick days.