



Hendry County School District

Guidelines for COVID-19 – Isolation, Quarantine, and Closures

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

COVID -19 Symptoms, HAVE been tested or HAVE NOT been tested:

You can return to work/school when all three of the criteria have been met:

- 24 hours with no fever (and no fever-reducing medication) **and**
- Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **and**
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

IF you have COVID symptoms and the doctor has determined that it is NOT COVID, follow the health care provider's instructions. For any return to work, you MUST have a doctor's note with authorization to return.

****Hendry County School District REQUIRES verification of a doctor's visit and diagnosis IF employees wish to use the Emergency Sick Leave/Families First Coronavirus Response Act.***

Tested positive for COVID-19 but no symptoms:

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:

- 10 days have passed since positive COVID test

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might require additional testing to see if you still have COVID-19.

Teachers or staff returning to work after quarantine or isolation (due to Positive COVID test) will be required to present a Permission to Return to Work statement from the Florida Department of Health or their primary care provider.

Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19:

It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should call the Hendry/Glades Health Department for guidance on exposure protocols. The Health Department will determine your next steps: i.e. remain at work or stay home for a specified amount of days after exposure (based on the time it takes to develop illness).

Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are having symptoms

If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to care for yourself and to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home. Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and can recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas. Stay home except to get medical care.

Take care of yourself. Get rest and stay hydrated. Take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, to help you feel better.

Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care.

Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people. As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home. If possible, you should use a separate bathroom. If you need to be around other people or animals, in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.

Monitor your symptoms. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus.** People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you think that you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

What constitutes close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

- If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

COVID-19 GUIDANCE on SCHOOL/DISTRICT CLOSURES

Classroom Closure Criteria

Elementary Schools (cohort model):

Individual classroom closures in elementary schools **may be considered** when 20% of the teachers/students/staff in that classroom are positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period. That means that individual classroom closures **will be considered** with a minimum of 1-2 positive cases within one classroom.

Middle/High Schools:

Individual classroom closures are difficult as students/teachers/staff members rotate through multiple classrooms throughout the day. Classrooms with a known exposure will be closed for deep cleaning, but all students within the class of an infected person will not necessarily require quarantine. Quarantine for exposure is based on the CDC guidelines of a person being located within 6 feet of a known positive for longer than 15 minutes (regardless of using a face covering). Therefore, all individuals identified by the Florida Department of Health (Hendry County) with close contact to a known positive will require quarantine for 14 days.

School Closure Criteria

Individual school closure will be recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with Hendry Public Health Officials.

Individual school closure **may be considered** when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school, or when greater than 20% of the total number of teachers/student/staff are absent within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school.

Note: Hendry County Public Health Officials may also determine a school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from a public health investigation or other local epidemiological data. Closure may depend on, for example:

- 1. extent of the community-wide spread, and/or*
- 2. whether the Florida Department of Health (Hendry County) is able to confirm the source of an infection was contracted within the school setting.*

District Closure Criteria

The Superintendent **may consider** closing the District if 25% or more of schools have closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days, and in consultation with Hendry County Public Health Officials. **If the cases are isolated to one area of the county, consideration may be given to closing the area rather than the entire district.** If the District is closed, students and teachers will transition to Option 2: Digital Learning.

****ANY CLOSURE (classroom, school, or district) would result in students, faculty and staff switching directly to Option 2: Distance Learning so that the education of students is not interrupted and remains a top priority.***

Any questions concerning quarantine, isolation, leaving or returning to work will be addressed by the district and school administration with input from the school nurse and the Hendry County Health Department.