

City of Palms Charter High School, Inc.

City of Palms Charter High School

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Fort Myers, FL 33916
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Palm Acres Charter High School

507 Sunshine Blvd. N. Unit B
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
P: 239-333-3300 F: 239-368-1330

Northern Palms Charter High School

13251 N. Cleveland Ave
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
P: 239-997-9987 F: 239-368-1330

COVID-19 School Information

Monitoring for Symptoms:

Staff and students should self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath. If a student develops symptoms throughout the day, they must notify an adult immediately.

Parents are expected to screen children prior to sending them to school. Children should be kept home if they display any of the following symptoms: *body temperature of 100.4°f or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle and/or body ache, headache, loss in taste/smell, sore throat, runny nose, nausea/vomiting.*

Schools are required to follow the guidance of the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH) to ensure staff and students stay home if:

- They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet the criteria for return.
- They are waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- They are not vaccinated and have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, until they meet the criteria for return.

Suspected Cases:

Schools are required to:

- Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to the designated area at the school, and send them home to isolate.

Families are required to:

- Keep students out of school for 10 days, or provide a doctor's note for an earlier return, if a student has any one of the following high-risk symptoms: cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell.
- For all other symptoms, keep students out of school until 24 hours after symptoms subside without using symptom reducing medication.

Exposure to Positive Cases

Families are required to:

- A student/employee who is not fully vaccinated and has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 must quarantine for 10 days since the last date of exposure if no symptoms develop. (FLDOH Guidelines)
- Quarantine can be reduced to 7 days if negative PCR test on day 6 or later after exposure.

Positive Cases:

Schools are required to:

- Ensure that if a person with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, school administrators contact the District's COVID-19 Hotline at (239) 456-2800, where staff will coordinate with local health officials.
- Follow the cleaning protocols for positive cases.
- Notify student families that a student has tested positive in the school.

Families/Employees are required to:

- Isolate and remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. (FLDOH Guidelines)

What is required to close a 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 positive case 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 FL Department of Health Lee County (FDOH-Lee) with close contact to a known positive will require quarantine for 10 days.

When can a student return?

- 10-day quarantine recommended for those who have a suspected COVID infection or a first positive test for COVID.
- Stay home, away from other people, except for medical care or basic necessities. If a family member must take care of you, they will need to quarantine (unless they are fully vaccinated) after you are well (or after their last exposure to you while you are in isolation).
- **Lasts for at least 10 days.**
 - **The 10 days start with your first symptom or positive test (if asymptomatic).**
 - **This means that if you become sick while on quarantine, your 10 days start at that time—not at the beginning of quarantine.**
- **If you are improving and have no fever at the end of 10 days, you can stop your isolation.**
- Repeat testing is not recommended