

Dear Barracuda Families,

I hope you had a joyful, peaceful, and healthy winter vacation! May 2022 and all future years be wonderfully blessed for your family!

We anticipate magnificent student accomplishments in 2022, though there will be substantial challenges to conquer. The most pressing immediate challenge is to mitigate the impact of the rise in local Covid cases. As of Sunday, January 2, I have received notification of 7 members of our school community who are quarantined due to having tested positive for Covid in the last week.

Mask mandates are not permitted for students at public schools in Florida. However, students are strongly encouraged to abide by best practices, as identified by the CDC. All staff and visitors are required to wear masks at DSAHS. While teaching and practicing social distancing, teachers may take off their masks to improve communication and comfort.

Our policies have not changed, though we ask for heightened vigilance in adhering to best practices to limit the spread of Covid, seasonal flu, common cold, and other ailments. Please review these updated CDC guidelines with your student:

- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the Covid-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to normalcy.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta and Omicron variants, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between masked students and 6 feet between unmasked students to reduce transmission risk.
- Ventilation, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning with disinfectant are important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness, have a negative test, and wait at least 5 days, including one day without symptoms or fever-reducing medication, before returning to school.

Any student or staff member who has a positive Covid test should email our school nurse, Ms. Sigman, immediately: HSigman@AventuraCharterHS.Org Ms. Sigman will communicate the isolation protocol to the parent and student. Ms. Sigman also will notify the student's teachers of the need to send the student a Zoom link.

Students experiencing a fever, persistent cough, congestion, nausea, dizziness, soreness, or headache will be prevented from having close contact with any student or staff member, and the student's parents will be called to pick up the student immediately.

Thank you for your cooperation in working through this extended season of wellness challenges while remaining devoted to unity and excellence.

Sincerely,

Dr. Geoff McKee, Principal

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