



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools

Alberto M. Carvalho

Miami-Dade County School Board

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December 8, 2020

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis,
State of Florida – The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

State Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees, M.D.,
Florida Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Honorable Governor DeSantis and Surgeon General Rivkees:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) serves the children of one of Florida's largest and most diverse communities, with a school-site workforce of over 25,000. Advocating for the health and safety of students and staff is a paramount priority of our School Board. Therefore, we are requesting that the state make additional resources available to provide for increased access to the more reliable PCR COVID-19 tests specifically for school-aged children to minimize false negative results. Further, as Florida begins to receive its allocation of COVID-19 vaccines, we respectfully request that personnel with direct student contact be considered among the highest priority vaccine recipients. Ensuring that children have access to physical schoolhouse learning options is not only critical to community economic recovery, it is critical to the academic, physical, and mental wellbeing of our state's children.

As emphasized in Commissioner Richard Corcoran's Emergency Order 2020-EO-07, we must do all that we can to build upon the successful reopening of all public schools and maintain open brick-and-mortar schools at least five days a week for all students. Key to high quality educational programs is the ability to maintain instructional continuity without regular disruptions necessitated by the frequent quarantining of teachers and school staff. Ensuring the adults who provide student instruction, as well as those who are critical to the function of schoolhouse services, are provided priority access to the coronavirus vaccine after healthcare workers and first responders, will expedite the stabilization of our community, our economy, and most importantly student learning.

Sincerely

Alberto M. Carvalho

AMC:cpi
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cc: School Board Members
School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet