

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Dear Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s):

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County (DOH-Sarasota) has been informed of a case of COVID-19 at _____. After an investigation, DOH-Sarasota is notifying parents of students who were identified as close contacts to the case. A close contact is anyone who had face-to-face contact or shared a small space for a long period of time with an infected person.

Your child was identified as being exposed to the case. Please monitor your child for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#). If you notice any symptoms, contact your child's pediatrician immediately for further evaluation and testing. **Additionally, you will need to contact DOH-Sarasota at 941-861-2873 to obtain a return to school letter before your child is able to return to school.**

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets which are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms which is why keeping exposed individuals separated from others is important.

Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The [most common symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19 are fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. If symptoms develop in your child, seek medical care and get tested.

The best way to prevent illness is by limiting exposure to the virus.

- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

If you have any questions, please call the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County at [941-861-2873](tel:941-861-2873). More information about COVID-19 is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on its website www.cdc.gov/covid19.

Sincerely,

Michael Drennon, MSPH, MPA
Epidemiology Program Manager