

to Melany, bcc: allocsstaff

Good afternoon,

In light of the surge of COVID-19 (Delta variant) and in an effort to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff while providing in-person learning opportunities, a special called meeting will be held virtually on Monday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m. Here are the details to view or listen to the meeting:

[Link to Join as an Attendee](#)

Join the Audio Only: Dial 1-408-418-9388 (Access Code 179 980 2307)

The only agenda item for the meeting is: Updated Health & Safety Guidelines and Expectations to Start the School Year.

The district will seek approval for immediate action to implement additional Health & Safety Guidelines and Expectations for the start of the school year. The recommendations are below. For more details regarding each item, please refer to this link: [Updated Health & Safety Guidelines and Expectations to Start the School Year](#).

- B1: For initial surveillance testing: All OCS employees shall be tested for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status following procedures established by the NC Department of Health and Human Services contracted vendor. Exceptions would apply for employees who have been diagnosed positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days.
- B2: All OCS employees shall report vaccination status to the school district Human Capital (Resources) Department.
- B3: All unvaccinated OCS employees must be available for weekly COVID-19 testing from the contracted state vendor.
- B4: Once COVID-19 vaccines are listed as FDA approved and no longer operational under the Emergency Use Authorization-EAU, all employees shall be required to become vaccinated within 30 days of being notified of this requirement unless the employee has an approved accommodation on file with the Human Capital (Resources) Department.
- B5: Unless informed otherwise, in the event of a school closure for students, all employees shall be expected to report to their assigned location or take approved leave. (This provision does not apply to contracted employees or substitutes unless directed to report based on needs of the school or district.)
- B6: All students, coaches, and employees who directly support athletics, cheerleading, club sports, chorus, marching band, or theater who are eligible for a vaccine must be vaccinated in order to remain eligible to participate effective September 7, 2021 (at least first dose). This provision applies to the above sports, clubs or programs that occur outside of the regular school day.
 - Data shared with the Board of Education on August 9, 2021 from the ABC Science Collaborative included: ([Link to ABC Science Collaborative Presentation & Spanish version](#))
 - COVID transmission is higher for extracurricular activities than classroom activities. Additionally, transmission is higher in student athletes than any other group at school.
 - The ABC Science Collaborative's research has shown that 50-75% of within school transmission in high school occurs during athletics. Indoors it is ~75% (published in July 2021) and outdoors ~50% (44/75; Plan A data for NC 2021). Outdoor transmission and "super-spreader" events recently document with the Delta variant
 - Several states (e.g., NC) required masking during athletics/extracurricular activities in 2020-21. Several states (e.g., Utah) required twice weekly testing in 2020-21. With the availability of a safe and effective vaccine, we now have a 3rd option to help us offer extracurricular activities, safely.
- B7: All in-state school field trips with destinations outside of Orange County including athletics and extracurricular events will be considered based on the health and community transmission rates for COVID-19. Additional travel restrictions may be imposed by the Superintendent as necessary.
- B8: All work-related out-of-state travel for school employees is suspended. As conditions evolve, administration may consider limiting in-state travel if warranted outside of Orange County based on the health and community transmission rates for COVID-19.
- B9: The Board authorizes the Superintendent to consult with the provided state contractor to develop a plan for COVID-19 testing in all schools.

A virtual information session will be held for any interested OCS staff from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18. Employees will be able to insert questions into the “chat” feature and all questions will be answered during the session or via a follow-up communication with all staff. A link to this information session will be shared with all staff by email next week.

We will remain vigilant in all health and safety guidance and expectations. We will also continue to reassess current guidance and expectations in consultation with our medical and health experts who are well-versed in COVID-19. The safety and health of students and staff continues to be a top priority in OCS and your support is appreciated.

In service to children,

Dr. Monique Felder



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