



Dr. Diana Greene
Superintendent

1701 Prudential Drive | Jacksonville, FL 32207
904.390.2115 | Fax 904.390.2586
GreeneD@duvalschools.org | www.duvalschools.org

October 1, 2021

Commissioner Richard Corcoran
Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Commissioner Corcoran,

The Duval County School District (“District”) sent you a letter yesterday, September 30, 2021, containing information that the District has since learned was erroneous; the purpose of this letter is to correct that information.

As was discussed in the letter yesterday, when enacting its Emergency Rule requiring masks, the Duval County School Board (“DCSB”) included language to allow the Superintendent to automatically suspend the policy without Board approval should certain health data points be met. These data points were determined in consultation with the Florida Department of Health and local physicians based on transmission rate in the community and were presented by the Superintendent to the Board for approval on September 7, 2021. The data points provided that the emergency mask policy would be suspended when Duval County’s rolling seven-day positivity rate declines to 7.99% or less and the rolling seven-day new case count per 100,000 people, declines to 49.99 or fewer.

Yesterday, the District was advised by the Duval County Health Department that preliminary data revealed that Duval County met the automatic suspension criteria. As such, it was the Superintendent’s intent to suspend the Emergency Rule in effect beginning Monday, October 4, and exercise emergency authority granted to her pursuant to Board policy to reinstate the Board’s prior policy language stating that masks are strongly encouraged and providing for an opt out at the parent/guardian’s sole discretion. The Superintendent would have made this same recommendation to the Board on October 5, at the Board’s regularly scheduled meeting.

However, the Superintendent learned from the Duval County Health Department today, that an error in the estimations had been made, and that the estimated rolling seven-

day new case count per 100,000 people *should have been 147* (a number which would need to be 49.99 or less to meet the automatic suspension criteria as set forth in the Emergency Rule). *See* attached correspondence between Ernesto G. Rubio, Interim Administrator/Health Officer, Duval County and Superintendent Diana Greene.

As stated yesterday, DCSB has taken every effort to allow for children to continue in-person education in a manner that protects the health of students and staff. While there was elation at the thought of such a decline in COVID cases, that moment was short-lived. A review of the official data indicates that students and staff in Duval County cannot yet be safely educated in person without requiring masks, especially considering quarantine requirements have been suspended.

Sincerely,



Dr. Diana L. Greene



Board Chair Elizabeth Andersen

Mairs, Rita

From: Greene, Diana L.
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 12:39 PM
To: *ALL School Board Members-A
Cc: Mairs, Rita; Pierce, Tracy A.; Trisotto, Elizabeth I.
Subject: FW: Weekly Florida COVID-19 Data Report
Attachments: 2021-10-01 Florida COVID Data.pdf

Board Members,

Please see the email below from FDOH-Duval and the attached documentation. Yesterday, FDOH informed us that the COVID-19 transmission data was expected to be in the moderate range. With the email below and today's official information, we learned that FDOH's prediction yesterday was incorrect and did not reflect the anticipated 100 point data swing. As indicated yesterday, we were waiting on official confirmation before taking any action. Based on the official numbers, we will not take any action on the current mask protocol in place according to the Board's Emergency Rule.

The attached data is not public until 5 pm. We will update our dashboard this afternoon with this new community transmission information and send information to families today clarifying new FDOH protocols for quarantining.

Kind regards,

Dr. Diana Greene
Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools
1701 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Tel: (904)390-2115
Fax: (904)390-2586



From: Greene, Diana L. <GreeneD@duvalschools.org>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Rubio, Tito G. <Tito.Rubio@flhealth.gov>
Cc: Nichols, Antonio C <Antonio.Nichols@flhealth.gov>; Young, Sonita D. <youngs1@duvalschools.org>; Mairs, Rita <MairsR@duvalschools.org>
Subject: RE: Weekly Florida COVID-19 Data Report

Dear Mr. Rubio,

Thank you for the updated information and correction. I will inform the school board and convey your message that the information does not go live until 5:00 p.m.

Kind regards,

Dr. Diana Greene
Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools
1701 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Tel: (904)390-2115
Fax: (904)390-2586



From: Rubio, Tito G. <Tito.Rubio@flhealth.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Greene, Diana L. <GreeneD@duvalschools.org>
Cc: Nichols, Antonio C <Antonio.Nichols@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Fw: Weekly Florida COVID-19 Data Report

This message was sent from outside the district. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dr. Greene,

Attached is the report that will be released today at 5:00 pm. I made an error in my estimations. For the 6-day period from September 24 to September 29 we had 1260 cases and an average of 210 cases per day. I gave you an estimated cases per 100,000 based on the daily average when it should have been total cases. I should have estimated a case per 100,000 to be 147.

Please accept my apologies for this dreadful error.

Tito

Ernesto G. Rubio, MPH | Administrator/Health Officer Citrus County; Interim Administrator/Health Officer Duval County

Florida Department of Health in Citrus

3700 W. Sovereign Path | Lecanto, Florida 34461- 8071 | **Work: 352.513.6004 Cell: 352.302.5103**



Follow us on Twitter @FLHealthCitrus

The Mission of the Department: *"To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts"*

The Department's Vision Statement: *"Healthiest State in the Nation"*

The Department's Values: (ICARE)

Innovation: We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.

Collaboration: We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.

Accountability: We perform with integrity & respect.

Responsiveness: We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.

Excellence: We promote quality outcomes through learning & continuous performance improvement.

Please Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

From: HSD00-COVIDReports <COVIDReports@flhealth.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 7:23 AM

Subject: Weekly Florida COVID-19 Data Report

This report is embargoed until 5:00PM EST. Please do not distribute.

Good morning,

The weekly Florida COVID Data report is attached.

For questions about this report, please contact COVIDReports@flhealth.gov.

COVID Reports Team
Florida Department of Health