

# NEED TO KNOW



# Chronicles In COVID-19

See the OCSD COVID-19 Dashboard where you can find a breakdown of positive cases and quarantines at <https://www.okaloosaschools.com/articles/2020/covid-dashboard>.

## Highlights

### What have we learned so far?

Now that we have been back in school for five weeks (not counting a hurricane week), here's a few things that we have learned:

- Social Distancing **WORKS** – keeping at least six feet between others will keep students and staff from being identified as a close contact and having to quarantine when a positive case occurs in a school building.
- Staying home when experiencing COVID-like symptoms prevents unnecessary quarantines of students and staff.
- Staying home after having been tested for COVID-19, while awaiting test results, prevents unnecessary quarantines of students and staff. It is also helpful if anyone in the household is symptomatic and being tested for COVID-19 that the household members stay home until test results are back.
- The Department of Health in Okaloosa County is the legal authority to enforce quarantines for close contacts and isolation for positive cases. The Okaloosa County School District conducts contact tracing under the direction of the Department of Health – Okaloosa.
- Adhering to and keeping updated seating charts in the classroom, at lunch and on the bus is imperative to ensure the appropriate close contacts are identified during contact tracing.

### Flu Season and COVID-19

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during the 2020-2021 flu season to protect you, your family and the community.

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses but are caused by different viruses. According to the CDC, there are key differences in the two:

- COVID-19 seems to be more easily spread and can be more serious for certain people.
- COVID-19 is contagious for a longer period of time than the flu.
- There is a vaccine to prevent the flu but not for COVID-19.
- Some COVID-19 cases experience the loss of taste or smell which is not seen in the flu.

### OCSD In-School Flu Clinics

OCSD has partnered with Health Hero Florida to offer no-cost in school vaccinations to our students and staff during the school day. Schools have sent the consent forms home. For families who would like a flu shot, simply complete the form and send it back to your school. ONLY those students with completed consent forms will receive the immunization. Health Hero Florida makes immunizations available to every child in an effort to stop diseases like the flu in their tracks and reduce absenteeism in schools.

For more information about Health Hero Florida, visit

[www.healthheroflorida.com](http://www.healthheroflorida.com).

Health Hero Florida will be in our schools this week on Wednesday, Oct. 14 through Friday, Oct. 16. To find out when Health Hero Florida will be at your school, visit your school's website, social media site or contact the school directly.



The Department of Health in Okaloosa County  
850-344-0566 (M-F 7 a.m. -5 p.m.)  
1-866-779-6121 (24 / 7)