



**Vision:**  
100% Student Success

**Mission:**  
"Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life."

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August 26, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) has been notified of a confirmed COVID-19 case at Osceola Middle School (9301 98th St N, Seminole, FL 33777). Because your child attends Osceola Middle School, we recommend monitoring your child closely for 14 days. If your child is identified as a close contact, then someone from the DOH-Pinellas will reach out to you.

The symptoms of COVID-19 vary widely between people but may include fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. While there are reports of severe illness among children, most experience relatively mild symptoms. However, children may pass COVID-19 to older adults or people with underlying medical conditions that may result in severe illness and complications.

The virus spreads person-to-person mainly through close contact with someone who is infected. Some people without symptoms may still be able to spread the virus. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus.

- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet from other people
- Wash your hands often
  - Review the importance of good handwashing with your child. Educational resources can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces with EPA-approved products.
  - Review CDCs: Cleaning Guidance
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others. More information on cloth face masks can be found at CDC: Cloth Face Coverings.
- Adhere to isolation guidance by DOH-Pinellas if notified of high-risk exposures.

We also recommend taking additional steps to protect your child's overall wellbeing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Encourage your child to stay active and provide opportunities to play outdoors. Help your child stay socially connected via phone, video chats, or letters. Watch for signs of stress of behavior changes and help your child cope with stress. For additional resources to keep children healthy during stressful times, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>.

Children may worry about how COVID-19 may impact them, their family, and friends. Parents and guardians can help children navigate this experience in an honest and accurate way to help minimize anxiety or fear. The CDC created recommendations to assist with these conversations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>.

Any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter can be directed to DOH-Pinellas Epidemiology Program at 727-824-6932.

Thank you.