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Omicron Update IV May 27th 2022

Last night (Thursday May 26th) at around 8:18pm we issued a Code Black for today (Friday May 27th 2022). We apologize profusely for the short notice and we are aware that it was a massive inconvenience for so many of you. Two staff members tested positive yesterday and after we issued the Code Black, we found out about another staff member who tested positive. We have a finite amount of teachers and we need a certain amount in order to operate. We made the decision to close so we can utilize the holiday weekend in the 5 day timeline recommended by both the CDC and State Health Department. The Memorial Weekend also gives parents who want to test their students time to procure a test (remember students under 2 are not eligible for most at-home rapid tests) over the break rather than in the workweek.

The 3rd staff member who tested positive was not at the school yesterday (Thursday May 26th) and was last in the building on Wednesday May 25th – this individual was primarily in our VPK B Classroom. We have also been notified of a possible secondary exposure in our Young Toddler I Classroom.

We are most likely experiencing the new form of the sub-variant of Omicron - **BA.2.12.1** (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/24/us/covid-omicron-cases.html>) with the latest wave of cases and exposures. We were able to go to a Code Yellow after the initial Omicron wave subsided and as stated at the time, we will adjust accordingly – going to a Code Yellow or a Code Green does NOT mean we are in the clear OR that COVID is over – just that we are in a period where there is low transmission. As treatment options get better and science/data evolve for this particular pathogen we hope we don't have to take such drastic measures.

We have completed video footage analysis for CONFIRMED cases and there isn't a student we would qualify as having sustained close contact with an individual who tested positive. There are students who have ACCUMMULATED 15min of contact within six feet of either one COVID-positive individual and/or a combination of two or more COVID-positive individuals, but no students have sustained CONSECUTIVE close contact with a COVID-positive person(s).

There has been a lot of confusion with the guidance being issued by the various national and local health agencies as well as bungling in communication by health officials – for example, the CDC mistakenly put Broward County as Medium (Yellow) transmission instead of High (Red) transmission - <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/coronavirus/fl-ne-covid-community-level-high-data-error-20220521-mg56qdeu7vemjabtn42tslo5pu-story.html>

Broward County COVID Dashboard Data -

http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19_report_archive/covid19-data/covid19_data_latest.pdf