

9/16/21

I would like to provide an update regarding what Harlem Schools is doing to keep our students safe and the schools open as we continue to deal with Covid issues. We are enforcing our mask mandate and distancing policy.

We are fortunate to have a school nurse in each building, and they are monitoring students and staff for symptoms, testing when warranted and contacting parents/guardians of affected students. Following guidance from medical organizations including the CDC, the nurses are identifying contacts of anyone who tests positive for Covid at school, and reaching out to the parents/guardians of those students identified as contacts. The nurses are also communicating with the appropriate agencies about Covid.

The custodial staff is continuing to follow an enhanced cleaning routine including regular deep cleaning. If areas of concern are identified those areas will be temporarily shut-down and extensive cleaning/disinfecting will be conducted.

Our top priority will always be to keep our students safe and healthy, recognizing the need to have them in school whenever possible. We appreciate your cooperation in not sending students who are sick and ask you to continue that and keep us informed. We will work with you to help any students staying home due to illness keep up with their work so they don't get behind.

We will not be sending out notices regarding positive tests to the general public out of respect for privacy issues, and to avoid creating a higher level of fear and concern than is necessary in this time of stress for everyone.

We thank you for your support and want to hear from you how we can help all of our students succeed.

Thank you,

Arlene Bigby, EdD
Harlem Superintendent