

Superintendent's COVID Task Force – November 16, 2020

Questions

<p>What are we going to do to protect the athletes that are doing what they should from being Quarantined? I know that a majority of the kids testing positive now are all kids that have been going to parties outside of school. I know the District can't police this. That is my point on the Contact Trace Policy though. These kids are not getting it at school. Ex. My son has a circle of friends of about 8 boys. They are all athletes. They do hang together outside of school but they do not go to large parties. They are all careful keep group tight because they are all Seniors. Several are spring sports so they don't want to lose another year of their sport!</p> <p>Is there any actual data to back up this Contact Trace Policy is stopping the spread in school?</p> <p>What can we do to help these athletes stay in school and not get traced? My son had coach ask him to think about going virtual spring. I understand why. However, my son is in AP Phycis 2, AP Calc B/C, AP Econ, AP Eng.4..... I am sorry but virtual is unacceptable for these classes. He is a very good straight A student top 26 in class. Tell me why he needs to have his education hindered?? Can there not be a way to let these athletes in season be allowed to sit in the back of the room away from others?</p>	Athletics
<p>Why is the tracker so inaccurate? It's giving parents and the community a false sense of safety.</p>	DB
<p>I want to know why the quarantine numbers looks so suspiciously low in contrast to the high active cases? A school in HEB just went virtual because they added 9 cases - hello MHS with 25!</p>	DB
<p>Is the percentage part on the MISD COVID-19 dashboard a combination of both in-person and virtual students? If so, why? <i>(Submitted by 2 different task force members)</i></p>	DB
<p>I would appreciate more clarity around the data on the dashboard. (i.e., are the positive cases based on a parent telling the school w/o documentation? On student who have been exposed and require quarantine, is there data available on whether they end of testing positive?</p>	DB
<p>Covid Dashboard – there is a big disconnect between what seems to be happening in the schools and what is shown on the dashboard. Why is this? What is the procedure? When are these numbers posted? Are there set times for schools to provide the data? For example, why do we get email notifications of new cases, but the case numbers don't change online? 1. Please have a set time each day where this is updated. 2. Explain what "cases"/numbers are shown. Are 'probable' cases being shown in the active case count?</p>	DB
<p>Frisco numbers how are they looking since they went to TEA?? Their dashboard as of Friday the 13th says 134 total on Campus cases and 64 off campus cases. Their district is double our size and their on campus total as of today they only have 33 more on campus cases than MISD.</p>	Frisco
<p>Please provide numbers on how many students/classes have been failed the first 2 six weeks. If MISD is offering grade redemption opportunities, it leads parents to believe it must be a significant number. It also appears that only Legacy High School received the option to do this. Is that the case or is this district wide? What is being done to make sure that students are actually learning the material instead of just boosting their grades?</p>	Instr
<p>Please show the numbers of how many kids are on track for the year based on the assessments MISD is doing. It appears grades are inflated, but test scores are indicating that the students have not mastered the content.</p>	Instr
<p>Why are some teachers not allowing students to spread out in classes that have room? Example. A class had 6 students out for contact tracing. Student asks to spread out and teacher says no because of seating chart ? Are we really not able to think with common sense and have blank seating charts available so when there is</p>	Instruc

<p>opportunity to spread out they can and the teacher can fill in seating chart for that day when she does attendance? If the district is going to maintain such a strict contact trace policy then the kids remaining in class HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK TO SPREAD OUT IF IT CAN BE DONE! It should be done! It's not rocket science and it only takes 5 mins. Put the Day and Date on Chart and mark it as Replacement chart for the day or whatever. It is the lack of thinking outside the box or thinking with forethought and having plans in place that leads some of us to believe there is a lack of Leadership.</p>	
<p>What are the numbers of Quarantined kids to date that are positive or symptoms?</p>	Q
<p>What is the total number of students/teachers who have been quarantined so far? How many of those tested positive during the quarantine period?</p>	Q
<p>Positive Tests and Quarantines – We've heard that kids are being quarantined solely on a parent calling in and saying their child has covid and that the schools are not asking if there is or requiring to see a positive test. We've also heard of students who actually have positive covid tests going to school because the parent didn't notify the school. How is this process supposed to work? Does the parent call, does the health department notify the school, or is it the doctors or company that did the tests responsibility?</p>	Q
<p>How is the notification of close contact/quarantine supposed to work? We've heard of kids who only knew they were quarantined when their parents actually showed up at the school to pick them up, we've heard of kids being asked to go find the "close contacts" because the school employee didn't know the particular student, we've heard of kids who spent over an hour in the nurses office only to find out it was an error and be sent back to class.</p>	Q
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<p>Why are School Board members telling staff members that reach out with COVID concerns that they "should weigh the benefit to risk in their employment and act accordingly" ??? Doesn't MISD want to try to keep their staff? Does MISD truly think that a response like that helps moral?</p>	Staff
<p>As cases and deaths increase in the area, will MISD add a death column to the tracker for both students and staff?</p>	Staff
<p>How is MISD managing the pool of substitute teachers? I understand there's a shortage (if not, please know that is a current rumor)</p>	Staff
<p>What is MISD doing to recruit more substitute teachers? People are saying they've applied but have yet to hear back from MISD. There are people saying that the page you land on when you search "substitute teaching" on the district website is disjointed/difficult. Has MISD looked into how to make the process/website more user friendly for those who are interested in subbing</p>	Staff
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<p>As we get into cold/flu/allergy season, what is the procedure for kids who may show symptoms at school? Is the nurse's decision final? Is there a process before quarantining kids? For example, we've heard of a student being quarantined because she had a 'fever' after coming in from playing at recess. The parent said that the child did not have a fever when she got her home and later their physician said the child was fine, but yet the child now has to quarantine for 14 days. We've heard of some schools accepting parent/doctors notes saying symptoms are because of something else, but other schools not accepting the same notifications. Not everyone can afford a doctor visit for a sore throat or cough, what can they do? There are other viruses other than covid that shouldn't require a doctor visit or a 14 day quarantine. What will the procedure be? This is especially important now that MISD will not allow these kids to "attend" classes remotely unless they have been quarantined by the district. If this does become an issue, will MISD reconsider letting the in-person students attend remotely in these cases?</p>	Symp
<p>Judge Whitley has said that he wishes schools would put sports on hold. Has MISD considered this? Under what circumstances would MISD consider this? Who would make this decision?</p>	TCPH

There are rumors that misd is going to go virtual between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Has this been discussed? If MISD were to shut down a school/class or grade level would it always be for a particular period of time? Is misd still using the same Campus/Facility response rubric that is posted? Have there been any changed to the rubric? I don't believe it's on the MISD rubric, but I've seen other districts close schools not because of the number of actual positive, but because of the large number of kids/teachers who had been quarantined. Is this something MISD would consider also? Under what circumstances? If so, for how long would the school be closed? Is this actually on the rubric? If not, will it be added?	V
I understand that some kids are failing in a virtual learning environment (could be a rumor). If this is the case, what do we attribute it to (the quality of virtual learning or students not logging in)? And, what is MISD doing to rectify this issue?	V-I
Will standardized testing be required during this COVID environment (i.e. STAAR)?	V-I
Please provide the passing/failure rate of in-person vs. online at each grading level. Same for attendance as other districts have done.	V-I
Are we shutting down Thanksgiving through Christmas?	Virtua
Will MISD consider going virtual after Thanksgiving given the state of cases and the amount of people who will gather for Thanksgiving?	Virtual
Would MISD even consider going virtual for the week of reviews/finals? That would give students and teachers a full 2 weeks to isolate before Christmas too (although I would like 3 weeks online as the first choice).	Virtual
Why are we not fully virtual when cases are higher now than they were March-May?	Virtual
I have been hearing rumors about MISD going virtual again after Thanksgiving or Christmas. I would like to know if the protocol is changing from the 5% per campus? If it's not changing can there be clearer info to the staff of MISD so these rumors don't keep going around? It causes panic. (These rumors are from staff)	Virtual

TEA Rapid Covid Testing Program:	
Is MISD considering this?	
Why/Why not?	
What about the accuracy of the rapid tests? What if the student/teacher gets tested with a different type test and the results differ? There have been reports of people getting different results the same day with the same tests, etc. Which test would be considered valid? Do only the positive results count?	
Concerns over medical privacy. Especially since nurses are already overwhelmed, who else would be involved and have access to these test results?	
How often would you test – for example is a student/teacher with allergies going to be tested daily?	
Is misd considering doing this only with people involved in extracurricular activities? If so, how often would they be tested, what happens if someone chooses to opt out?	
Would a negative test on someone who has symptoms mean they don't have to quarantine or not have to quarantine for as long?	
If MISD would accept a negative test from someone who had symptoms, why wouldn't they accept a negative test from someone who didn't have symptoms?	
If MISD doesn't accept a negative test to shorten or eliminate quarantine, why test at all?	
Would a parent have to sign a permission slip each time the school felt the child should be tested? For young kids, would a parent be allowed to be with the student while the test was administered?	
What would be the process as to who determines what symptoms would require a test? Teacher, nurse, admin, another student?	

Comments

<p>On behalf of a collective of parents, community members, and staff that would like a SAFER MISD: <i>(Submitted by 2 different task force members)</i></p>
<p>Thank you for keeping the quarantine process in place, it's one of the safest ways to help mitigate the spread of this virus.</p>
<p>Thank you for having Russ Jones come out to speak at the last Task Force meeting! It was nice to hear the presentation from he and Cathy Marsh, experts.</p>
<p>I would comment that many of us, teachers, parents, and students, feel like the district is not taking this huge spike in cases seriously. As my classes get smaller due to quarantining, my students are more and more anxious. The issue isn't with the quarantine procedure either, it's with the fact that they know so many of their friends are sick.</p>
<p>PLEASE ALLOW DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. Assuming we won't be allowed to ask questions during the meeting, I will try to ask my follow-up questions on this survey.</p>
<p>Please have someone address rumors. A lot of concern and frustration could be avoided if parents, students, and teachers had more information as to the district's plans.</p>
<p>Have an email where parents can send in questions/concerns and instead of answering each email back with a form letter, post the question and answer to one FAQ page where everyone can see it. Please have the link to this page on the Covid dashboard. This would also be a great place to address rumors. *If a page like this exists, please tell us the email address and where to find the information.</p>
<p>Please use a common sense approach to seating charts – For example -- Allow students to spread out in class where possible. Students who are in classes where kids have been quarantined have been told they have to stay in their assigned seats even though there is now more space for them to spread out. Consider allowing students to pick their own seats in classrooms, on buses, and in lunch rooms instead of the teacher/admin assigning them. This way students could sit by their friends who they have in other classes, or who they already eat lunch with, or play with at recess, or play sports with, etc. This would greatly reduce the number of "contacts" each student has.</p>
<p>As a campus principal, I personally think the health and safety protocols that we have in place are working well. We are being proactive and keeping kids safe! As a result, we have had very few instances of COVID -19 on my campus. When we've had them, they come from outside sources and activities. I do not think we have had once single instance of COVID-19 spreading from one student to another due exposure on campus. I probably need to knock on wood or something now.</p>
<p>Thank you for your leadership during this time.</p>
<p>Also next time you have a panel maybe allow for a true Question and Answer session. We had to come up with questions before hand not knowing who would be there to answer questions. Also there are questions that come up in an answer. That was a truly one sided meeting and I was extremely disappointed. It only strengthens my belief that this Task Force is mostly for show.</p>