



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require, on an emergency basis, the reporting of positive COVID-19 cases within 24 hours to families with a student in an affected classroom and to require that notifications are provided via a parent or guardian’s preferred contact method, and to require District of Columbia Public Schools to report to the Council schools that have not been assigned expanded staffing related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the percentage of asymptomatic testing occurring in each school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Returning to School Safely Emergency Act of 2022”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of the act, the term:

(1) “DCPS” means District of Columbia Public Schools.

(2) “School” means a school in the DCPS system or an individual public charter school.

Sec. 3. Classroom notification.

(a)(1) Within 24 hours after a confirmed COVID-19 case of a student attending in-person learning or a school employee assigned to a classroom, a school shall send notice to all parents or guardians of students in the affected classroom and to all school personnel known to have spent at least one 15-minute period in the prior 3 days in the same classroom as the student or school

34 employee. The notice shall disclose the fact of a positive test in the classroom and provide
35 information on COVID-19 testing location.

36 (2) The notifications required by subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be
37 electronic and through the preferred method of contact asserted by a student's parent or guardian,
38 if one has been asserted.

39 Sec. 4. COVID surge reporting requirements.

40 (a) Within 2 business days after the effective date of the Returning to School Safely
41 Emergency Act of 2022, passed on emergency basis January 18, 2022 (B24-XXX), and weekly
42 thereafter, DCPS shall transmit to the Council and post on the DCPS website the following
43 information:

44 (1) The names of schools that have not been assigned a COVID Strategy &
45 Logistics Coordinator and the names of schools that have not been assigned a full-time substitute
46 teacher as of that date and

47 (2) The percentage of asymptomatic testing completed in each school the
48 preceding week.

49 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

50 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
51 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
52 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-307.47a).

53 Sec. 6. Effective date.

54 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
55 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
56 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section

- 57 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
- 58 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).