



Welcome to The Voice of HSEF: *Connecting members to HSEF's eNewsletter. Our hope is that this email — with quick and easy-to-digest information about important issues, ways to join and upcoming events — will help unclutter your inbox and give you easy access to information you need when you need it. I hope you find the information in this issue useful and timely. Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, and suggestions.*

In This Issue

- **HSEF Need to Know** Important *updates*
 - [Covid-19 information and Dashboard](#)
 - [Leave Forms](#)
 - [CDC Guidelines for Quarantine](#)
 - [Legislative Session Update](#)
 - [Office Hours](#)
 - [HSEF Bags](#)
- **Join HSEF Information** *on how to join HSEF.*
 - [Website info](#)
- **Coming Up Events** *in the coming weeks and months.*
 - [Upcoming events](#)
 - [General Membership Meeting](#)
 - [Negotiations Update](#)

HSEF Need to Know

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND DASHBOARD

<https://hillsboroughschools.org/reopening/dashboard>

- Everyone 16 years of age or older are eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.
- HSEF will encourage everyone who is eligible, to get vaccinated to keep our community and loved ones safe during these hard times.
- All HSEF staff have received both rounds of the vaccine if any questions or concerns arise about getting vaccinated, please do not hesitate to ask.

LEAVE FORMS

Members that need leave forms may come into our office and pick them up. If you need them to be faxed, please call our office, and provide us with a fax number so we can fax them over to you.

Office number: (813) 231-2030

Fax number: (813) 234-3825

CDC GUIDELINES: QUARANTINE

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who had Covid-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with Covid-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

Stay home and monitor your health!

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has Covid-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4 degrees), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of Covid-19.
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from Covid-19.

Options to reduce quarantine.

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

After stopping quarantine, you should

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet from others, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

What you need to know

- In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- If you decide to engage in public activities, continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventive actions.
- Keep these items on hand when venturing out: a face mask, tissues, and a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, if possible.

Choosing safer activities

- If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing many things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.
- When choosing safer activities, consider how COVID-19 is spreading in your community, the number of people participating in the activity, and the location of the activity.
- Outdoor visits and activities are safer than indoor activities, and fully vaccinated people can participate in some indoor events safely, without much risk.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

- Session is over! Your hard work and the hard work of our members and staff had a huge impact on the outcome of this session. But the work is far from over. We must continue to speak up and advocate for our public schools, our students, and our members. There is a special session the week of May 17 to deal with the gaming compact the governor reached with the Seminole Tribe. There also are only six months until committee work will begin for the 2022 legislative session.

Here are some key elements of this session you should be aware of:

The wins:

- The budget! Going into this session, we were told to expect deep cuts in the higher education budget and small cuts in the PreK-12 budget. In the end, the budget allowed for level funding with increased flexibility for PreK-12. The budget also, for the first time anyone can remember, set aside funds for additional students who may show up in the fall; meaning mid-year cuts are much less likely next year. Considering the challenges that Covid has presented for finances in Florida, this is a win for Florida's students and public schools. The budget is not perfect, as it continues to keep veteran teachers and education staff professionals down. We will have to work on changing the narrative and gaining support for all who work in our schools. Finally, let us not forget the federal dollars coming down to districts that should help our students and our members!
- PreK accountability: Our public schools have incredible PreK programs. Now, some of the private programs that take VPK dollars will have to match some of that accountability. This is not only good for students, but also will demonstrate that our public schools truly are the best place for students to learn.
- The union movement: Ok, so this is not a bill, but it is important for us to take a step back and recognize the work that we did this session. FEA was heard this session. *Florida Politics*, a political daily publication, listed FEA as a winner on April 24 in the "Capitol Directions" section of the [Takeaways from Tallahassee](#) newsletter. Another statewide publication, *The Capitalist*, had an article titled "[Teachers union appears poised for major upset in Florida legislature](#)" on April 22. This publication, which we believe is tied to Americans for Prosperity (a right-wing group that works against unions and public schools), had early on supported and advocated for SB 1014 and predicted its passage. Americans for Prosperity also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to pass the bill. Ultimately, the nearly 10,000 FEA members who stayed on message were responsible for securing us a much better session than was predicted. You proved the power of our 150,000 members is real!

The stops:

- Senate Bills 1014 and 78 (House Bills 835 and 947) were stopped thanks to your hard work and unified member involvement. The two key turning points that kept this legislation at bay involved members being in Tallahassee and delivering a short, strong, and unified personalized message to lawmakers.
- Senate Bill 84, the pension bill, passed the Senate. However, several House lawmakers heard us and agreed this was not the year to go after the retirement security of frontline public employees. The House never took up the bill.
- Senate Bill 220 (House Bill 997) would have taken presidential searches for colleges and universities out of the sunshine. The bill was expected to pass this year, despite the fact it required a two-thirds vote. It ultimately failed after our members, led by UFF, spoke up.

Join HSEF.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Want to become an HSEF member today? Please visit our website at <http://www.hsefonline.org> for information about joining, membership services, benefits, and contract language. Once entering our website, scroll down and click on the “become an HSEF member today” tab and fill out the form. Please make sure after joining and receiving a welcome email to then register to our website to have access to our full site. Registration is located on the left-hand side of the website labeled member login, “click here to sign up”. HSEF members that need to contact us can also fill out a contact us form that will be sent to one of our member service specialists.

OFFICE HOURS

Due to Covid-19, HSEF office hours have been temporarily changed to Monday through Friday from 7:00AM-3:00PM with a half hour lunch from 12:00pm-12:30pm. Masks are required during all office visits.

HSEF BAGS

All HSEF members, if you have not done so already, please pass by our office to pick up our new HSEF Bag.

Location: HSEF Union Hall
5126 N Florida Ave
Tampa, FL 33603

Coming Up

- **General Membership Meetings: Due to COVID-19 and the safety of all our members, our General Membership Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. We will follow up with further details for our next meeting.**
- **Negotiations Update: at this time, we have submitted contract language to the district, and they have submitted contract language to us that is in discussion. No further information currently.**