How My School Fights a Virus

Written by Rick Raleigh  Illustrated by Meghan Wardell
“Through the eyes of a child, we wanted to create a tool that supports Detroit children, families, and early childhood providers in normalizing the vital practices that minimize risks so that care can continue in safe, inspiring learning spaces.

This story weaves Motor City style with practical advice for the young and young at heart.”

Ashanti Bryant | Director, IFF Early Childhood Services
Hi! My name is Shontelle and I’m so excited to get back to school.

I just found out my school is fighting a virus and how yours can too!
My parents have been worried about me returning to my school.

But, they have been feeling better as we learn all the new rules.
My school starts getting ready with our cleaning crew each night.

They’re cleaning, washing, disinfecting, so our school is ready for the fight.
In the morning, picking out my outfit is my very favorite task.

And, this year was extra special because I picked out a matching mask!
Some of my friends are starting school at slightly different times—

This way we can stay spread out and not wait in such long lines.
We check our temp and wash our hands as we walk inside the door.

I am finally back inside my school, but it looks slightly different than before.
The halls are somewhere it’s important that we maintain our separation.

So now each class follows a special footprint until they reach their destination.
In the classroom we now learn with a smaller group of friends.

To help fight the virus, we keep our groups to less than 10.
We stay with our small group of friends throughout the entire day.
We learn, read, and eat with them and then go out to play!
I am grateful for my teacher, working extra hard to keep us safe.

So everyday I’m telling her that she’s extra, extra great!
Going to school when there’s a virus is much different than before. But, when everyone works together, it doesn’t feel like such a chore!
School was so much fun today, I am so sad that it must end-

But the good news is, tomorrow we get to do it all over again!
Everyone’s goal is to prioritize the reopening of schools as safely and as quickly as possible given the many known and established benefits of in-person learning. In order to enable this and assist schools with their day-to-day operations, it is important to adopt and diligently implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 inside the school and out in the community (CDC.gov).
Supported by IFF, a nonprofit that works with the early childhood education sector to understand, invest in, and increase the availability of quality child care options for all families.