

Superintendent Message on Health and Safety

To be sent to all staff Wednesday November 4

Dear staff –

I am so proud of the great work Everett Public Schools teachers and staff are doing every day to ensure our students get the best education they can, in whatever environment we are working in. That is our priority. But I want to take a moment to reset and refocus us on a few very important practices as your health and safety is also of great importance. As more people are working back in the buildings, there is a greater comfort level and some of the original safety measures are not being followed as stringently.

In addition to the comfort level causing some not to follow COVID safety protocols as closely, there are a few additional factors to consider in our need for increased safety adherence including:

- A [rapid rise of COVID cases](#) in Snohomish County is bringing heightened concern about exposure.
- The newly adopted CDC and SHD definition of “close contact” is if you are within six feet of a COVID-positive person for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. This is applicable even if wearing a mask. Previously this was defined at 15 minutes at one time.

I want to remind everyone of the importance of wearing your mask, keeping social distancing and washing/sanitizing your hands frequently. Please follow the related standards below which will help us all stay safe.

In-building safety standards:

- Even if you are in the same building, have virtual meetings whenever possible.
- Do what you can to limit exposure - for instance, call someone instead of going to their office.
- If you **must** have a face-to-face meeting, always wear your mask, stay 6 or more feet apart during the meeting and keep doors open if possible.
- Do not take your mask off to talk to people – that is when it is needed the most.
- Supervisors, do what you can to distance your office staff from each other as feasible, possibly consider rotating schedules if needed.

As always, if you need to work remotely because of health, safety and/or childcare issues, work with your building principal or supervisor so they can determine the best way to support you.

If you are uncertain about your ability to stay at your worksite, your ability to work remotely, and/or have questions regarding leave options, please contact benefits@everettsd.org and our Human Resources department will share options with you.