



Dr. Saltzman staff message March 19, 2021

To: All District Staff
From: Dr. Ian B. Saltzman, Superintendent
Regarding: CDC announcement on social distancing in schools

Good afternoon staff! I hope this finds you well. What an incredible year this has been and what great work you have done. I appreciate all of you!

I am sure many of you have heard the announcement from the CDC today making adjustments to social distancing requirements. The announcement indicated that because the COVID virus is not as commonly transmitted by students, and proper safety plans and protocols are in place, the social distancing requirements for elementary and most of secondary can move to 3 feet. The caveat for secondary includes some higher-risk areas like band, choir, and the lunchroom where masks aren't worn.

This, along with our staff being able to receive the COVID vaccination, is exciting news as we look to bring more students and staff back into the buildings. But, this guidance from the CDC is still being reviewed by the Washington State Department of Health and the governor. We have been told we will be given local guidance early next week on whether this new social distancing standard will be adopted in our state, and if so, when. The decision regarding adoption of this guidance sits with the Governor, not local health jurisdictions, so **at this immediate time, there is no change to the current 6 foot guidance.**

This announcement adds more options into our planning which is exciting. We will continue our slow and steady pace of bringing students and staff back into the buildings in a safe manner. Stay tuned for more information early next week.

Please be safe and be well,

Ian