



Staff message on COVID quarantine September 29, 2021

To: All EPS staff
From: Ian B. Saltzman
Regarding: Updated COVID tracing protocol

Good afternoon staff,

I hope you are enjoying the start of school as much as our students seem to be. Fall is definitely in the air and we look forward to all the things a new season brings.

While it has been wonderful to have students back in our schools full time, it has been complex to manage the challenges of contact tracing while continuing to provide student learning during quarantine periods. We know the last few weeks have been equally challenging for some of our families as well. Thank you for being good partners with us as we navigate this together. I would like to reiterate a few protocols and clarify some new ones..

Reporting Positive COVID cases

For any positive COVID case, whether with a student or staff person, please call the EPS Contact Tracing Team phone number:

425-385-4299

We are working on assigning more staff to support this team. Thank you for your patience if your call has not been returned as quickly as you had hoped.

Modified Quarantine for Close Contacts

Last week, the Snohomish Health District (SHD) shared they would now permit the duration of quarantine for close contact individuals to be modified, within the parameters of the [requirements for K-12 schools established by the Washington State Department of Health](#). Previously, SHD required unvaccinated staff and students who were identified as close contacts to quarantine for 14 days. Now, they are permitting school districts to shorten the quarantine period to 10 days from exposure, as long as there are no symptoms.

To minimize student and staff time away from the classroom, Everett Public Schools is adopting the 10 day quarantine period for unvaccinated close contacts. **Therefore, starting Monday, September 27, if you are/were identified as a close contact and are not vaccinated, you only need to quarantine for 10 days, provided no symptoms develop.** If you are vaccinated you do not need to quarantine, only watch for symptoms. We will also support those families who prefer to keep their students home for the 14 day quarantine. Close contacts identified prior to September 27 must still quarantine for 14 days. Those quarantined in the last two days will be contacted with a new quarantine date.

Knowing When to Return to School

We know it can be complicated to navigate the details of when students and staff can return to school. We have modified our [Return to School Flow Chart](#) sharing a variety of circumstances. This can also be found on our COVID web page under the “Our District” tab.

Please remember, all staff need to be fully vaccinated by October 18. If you have questions about that requirement, please talk to Human Resources.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Be safe and be well,

Ian