

January 2, 2022

Dear Everett Public Schools' families

Happy New Year! We hope students, staff and families are having a safe and restful Winter Break. With the evolving situation regarding the COVID Omicron variant, as well as the winter weather we have been experiencing, we want to provide you with information to help you prepare for a safe return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022.

COVID information

Returning to in-person learning Monday, January 3

Everett Public Schools will return to in-person learning as scheduled on Monday. As we have throughout the pandemic, we will continue to follow guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Snohomish Health District to make decisions that support the health and safety of our students, families and staff.

It will take all of us working together to ensure a safe and healthy return from Winter Break

Here are a few ways we can all help support the health and safety of students and staff in our schools:

- If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please stay home and get tested and contact your student's school
- Get vaccinated, including a booster shot
- Avoid large gatherings
- Continue to wash your hands regularly
- Wear masks properly
- Maintain a social distance from others

What are the latest district requirements for quarantine and isolation timelines for positive or close contacts?

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed the nation's COVID isolation and quarantine timelines, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and OSPI have not updated their guidance for K-12 schools as of this time. As a result, all quarantine and isolation timelines that were in effect for students and staff will remain the same until further notice. You can find details on our COVID webpage. We will continue to update timelines according to DOH guidance.

Winter weather information

Our Transportation Department will continue to evaluate roadways and bus routes throughout the week. As of this moment, buses are running on schedule tomorrow.

If we must cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:30 a.m., with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media and post the message on our website. If there is no announcement about Everett Public Schools, school is on the regular schedule. More information and resources for school closures or delays is on the district website under the *Parents* tab for emergency and safety.

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, please:

- check your email or phone for district messages
- listen for media announcements
- view the district's website at www.everettsd.org
- watch district Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts
- Check radio and television news outlets

Snow routes are online

School drop off and pick up locations may change in an emergency situation. If your child rides a bus to school, please become familiar with the snow route information on the district <u>transportation</u> department's webpage.

Please be on the look-out for additional messages as we navigate COVID and winter weather in the days ahead

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the well-being of our students and staff. We look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

Superintendent