



November 1, 2022

Re: COVID Update regarding students and staff

Dear Staff,

Governor Inslee recently announced all the remaining COVID emergency proclamations and the state of emergency expire on October 31, and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) updated [their guidance](#) accordingly. Many of the current K-12 COVID guidance requirements have now shifted to recommendations.

Though the state's emergency orders (including vaccination requirements for education workers) are ending, public health leaders continue to emphasize the importance of vaccines and masking as part of everyday infectious disease prevention.

#### **What do these changes mean for all?**

- We are still required to report positive COVID cases to the health district. All cases must be reported to the COVID team (**425-385-4299** or [clicking to report](#)).
- It is recommended students and staff who develop a new onset of respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea, or other symptoms of COVID, stay home. This is the case with any potentially infectious disease. There will be a flow chart from DOH to follow, which they are still revising. Visit our [COVID website](#) for updates.
- The Health Room is considered a health care setting and students and staff in this space are required to wear a well-fitting mask per [Mask Guidance During COVID](#), schools will need to continue providing the required PPE.
- The isolation (CARE Room) of individuals who develop a new onset of COVID symptoms at school is no longer required for K-12.
- Students and staff may voluntarily wear masks and PPE.

#### **What do these changes mean for students?**

- We still need to report positive COVID cases to the health district, so any positive COVID cases in your building must continue to be reported to the COVID team (425-385-4299 or [clicking to report](#)).
- It is recommended students who test positive for COVID stay home and isolate from others for at least 5-days following the onset of symptoms.

- Children in early learning and childcare who develop a new onset of COVID symptoms are **required to be excluded**, and they are to follow the DOH flowchart still being updated. Visit our COVID website for updates.

### **What do these changes mean for staff?**

Because employers must follow L&I requirements, staff have different parameters. The following will continue for staff:

- We are still required to notify staff of any positive case in their building.
- Employees who test positive for COVID **must** follow the DOH flowchart being updated and may return upon completion of their required isolation (at least five days).
- Employees must report when they test positive or are symptomatic for COVID (**425-385-4299** or [clicking to report](#)).
- Employees providing care to, or working near, an individual known or suspected to have COVID will be provided and should wear appropriate and approved personal protective equipment (PPE).

Thank you for all you do every day for kids

Stay safe and be well,

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