



All staff Email: June 26, 2020

All EPS staff:

As we begin to phase back into buildings and schools over the next several months, it is vital to keep up-to-date on health and safety standards. To assist in this, Laura Phillips has been working as the District-Level COVID-19 Supervisor, providing resources and training staff. In July this role will be filled by Dave Peters, and Laura will be the CRC COVID-19 supervisor working alongside Dave. Please read the following information prepared by Laura and look for a weekly or bi-weekly COVID-19 worksite update coming from communications.

Also, as a reminder, for those in Group B (see attached) who are not on vacation and are interested in working in the building, Group B can return to the workplace on July 6.

From Laura Phillips:

Subject: Update to COVID-19 Worksite Safety Expectations

As we return to work in our phases and adjust to working in a COVID-19 environment, we will be sending out weekly COVID-19 communications. This will give us opportunity to highlight what's going well and refine systems as needed to keep all of us, and our loved ones, well. This will also provide a platform for regular updates on state-wide expectations and current guidance from Washington State Department of Health, Labor and Industries, and various other state and federal agencies.

Our first week of transitioning back to work went great. We have set up Employee Screening stations and are learning to get comfortable with masks—some of us are learning how to keep our eye glasses from fogging up. It is important that we acknowledge these accomplishments.

Since Governor Inslee announced last week that everyone in Washington is now required to wear masks inside all public spaces and in outside spaces when social distancing can't be consistently implemented, this week's communication will be primarily related to face coverings.

To meet safe work standards, and to be in compliance with Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, the following requirements are effective immediately:

- All employees must wear **cloth** face masks. Paper masks do not meet L&I requirements for worker safety and all employees are required to switch to cloth masks effective immediately. If you do not have a cloth mask of your own, the district will provide them. Our first shipment of cloth masks have arrived, and I will begin a distribution plan on Monday, June 29th by working through department supervisors.
- Face masks are to be worn unless employees are in isolated spaces such as offices, empty classrooms or other building spaces, or if they are working outside and practicing social distancing.
- Employees not wearing cloth masks or not wearing a mask at all, will be asked to utilize a cloth mask. If an employee fails to comply with the request, the employee may be asked to return home following consultation with the employee's supervisor.
- The district recognizes that there are limited exceptions to the use of cloth face masks, including certain health conditions. If you think this applies to you, please start a conversation with your supervisor or the benefits team (we want to help you figure this out).
- The COVID Site Supervisor is responsible for maintaining compliance with the expectations set for safe working conditions—this is because each of you has a right to a safe work site.

I know this transition to masks has been hard for many of us. I find myself feeling a little bit like Goldilocks, switching out masks in search of a good fit. We will get through this, but we will all need to work together and comply with safe working conditions for the health and well-being of each of us, our families and community.

Stay well,

Laura