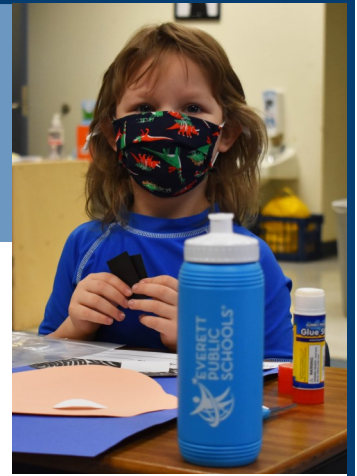


Everett Public Schools

Fall 2021 School Planning Guidance



Washington State Department of Health (DOH) provided guidelines on May 12, 2021 for the 2021-22 school year and COVID impacts. Based on the latest guidance, the following is a summary for school fall planning. Please observe the edition dates as guidance may change through the summer.

Edition June 1, 2021

Requirements for fall:

- Plan for full time in-person instruction. **Physical distancing should NOT prevent offering full-time instruction.**
- Mandatory mitigation measures include masking, cleaning and disinfecting, reporting requirements and responding to cases of COVID
- Plan for 3-feet social distancing in classrooms and 6-feet in common areas like cafeteria, and areas like band and choir, etc., to the greatest extent possible.
 - 3-feet social distancing in classrooms equates to a typical classroom capacity. As a result, for most standard (non-specialized) classrooms, there will be no posted capacity limit.
 - 9-feet required for brass/woodwinds. Strings, percussion, choir, PE require 6-feet.

Social Distancing Guiding Principles:

- Use your discretion and consider the cost/benefit of the decision.
 - For common spaces, what are the systems and structures that most closely align to the 6-foot distancing recommendations that do not disproportionately alter or diminish other aspects of your programs?
- Select strategies in common spaces that meet the standard of mitigation through social distancing to the greatest extent possible
 - Greatest extent possible, in this context, means to operate with:
 - common-sense approaches that promote safe and healthy environments
 - by employing mitigation strategies like one way traffic and facing one direction
 - without major negative or disproportionate impacts to other programs or systems
- Cohorting is helpful to prevent the spread of disease, but isn't required.



Can I plan for school the same way I did before COVID besides the required health protocols?

Yes, in general school can look much like it did before COVID hit, except you must implement and consider the following:

What is different than years past:

- Staff and students wear masks and emphasize hand hygiene
- Create one-way flow of foot traffic in indoor settings that historically are crowded, like hallways
- Classes like PE, band and choir need separate plans
- Set distancing markers in areas where lines tend to form



Does that mean:

1. I can have volunteers back in my school? Yes, if they follow protocol.
2. We can take school pictures? Yes, support on details forthcoming.
3. I can keep the number of lunches that best supports my master scheduled? Yes, but try to find ways to flow traffic and reduce face-to-face interactions with no masks.
4. We can have the same number of students in a classroom as before? Yes, if you can space them out in the classroom that is helpful, but only as your space allows.
5. We no longer have to collect student COVID health attestations or screen individual students? Yes, that is correct. The requirement to screen students, staff and visitors at school entries has been removed. However, schools should continue monitoring student, staff and visitors for symptoms and follow the protocols for responding to someone who shows symptoms of COVID.