

COVID Communications Plan for the 21-22 School Year

Updated on 10/7/21 based on the Washington State Department of Health guidance October 4, 2021. This document can be found on the home page of our website (www.wcsd.wednet.edu).

This Plan will be updated as guidance changes throughout the school year.

Communication Tools

Emergency All Calls will be only used when there is a change to the normal school schedule. For example: when school is delayed, cancelled or if individual buildings or classrooms are closed.

Personal Phone Calls: For positive test results or notifying close contacts of quarantine requirements.

Email: Will be used for exposure notifications (be sure to update your Skyward information).

Letters: Will be used for exposure notifications, if email is unavailable.

Website: Will have the latest DOH guidelines.

Positive Cases:

Those individuals will receive a phone call from School Staff ASAP

When we learn of a positive test for COVID 19. That person will receive a phone call and a follow up letter with instructions and quarantine guidelines. We hope that everyone will follow the guidelines to do their part to limit exposure to other community members.

Close contacts/quarantine/isolation rules

Those considered close contacts that have to quarantine will receive a phone call ASAP

Generally, a close contact is someone who was within six feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period. In a K-12 indoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infected student when both students were wearing a mask consistently and correctly over the nose and mouth and other prevention strategies were in place.

According the Department of Health a person is contagious with COVID-19 starting two days before the onset of symptoms or is estimated as two days before the positive test collection date if someone with COVID-19 is asymptomatic. And lasts until the end of their isolation period.

Possible Exposure but not a close contact (same classroom or bus with a known positive)

These students and staff will be informed either with a letter or email (to ensure quickest response, make sure your email address in Skyward is up to date)

All students should always be monitoring for any symptoms of COVID-19 and should not come to school if they have any symptoms.

Testing options at school

Currently our principals in both schools are conducting COVID tests on an appointment type basis for students, staff and family members. Please call ahead to access this option. We are required to report all test results to the Lincoln County Health Department. These tests are currently available at no cost to the district or the individual.

We will not conduct any student tests without a signed parent permission form.

Quarantine/Isolation rules for Students and Staff that are Fully vaccinated OR Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

A) Symptomatic:

- 1) Stay home for 10 days AND symptoms improved.
- 2) Or return after a Negative PCR test done no sooner than day 5 and symptoms improved.

B) Tested Positive for Covid-19:

- 1) Stay Home for 10 days since symptom onset or positive test
- 2) AND 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication
- 3) AND symptoms improve.

C) Exposed to COVID-19 and Asymptomatic:

NO quarantine needed but should:

- 1) Get tested 3-5 days following known exposure.
- 2) Continue to wear a mask in ALL public indoor settings.
- 3) Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.

D) Lives with someone COVID-19 Positive:

NO quarantine needed but should:

- 1) Separate from the COVID positive household member to the best of their ability. (recommend separate bedrooms and bathrooms)
- 2) Get tested in 3-5 days following exposure.
- 3) Continue to wear a mask in ALL public indoor settings.
- 4) Watch for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days.

Quarantine/Isolation rules for Unvaccinated Students and Staff:

A) Symptomatic:

- 1) Stay home for 10 days or return after a negative PCR test done no sooner than day 5 AND symptoms improved.

B) Tested Positive for COVID-19:

- 1) Stay home for 10 days since symptoms onset or positive test.
- 2) AND 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication.
- 3) AND symptoms have improved.

C) Exposed to COVID-19:

- 1) Stay home for 10 days after the last close contact.
- 2) May test no sooner than day 5.
- 3) Can return on day 8 if Negative PCR test And No symptoms.

D) Living with a COVID-19 positive household member:

- 1) Other household members should get tested and quarantine according to a positive or negative result:
 - a. *If Positive result, isolate for 10 days from the day of your test. (Refer to 'Tested Positive for COVID-19')
 - b. *If Negative result, continue to quarantine and get retested 5-7 days after the first negative test. This can reduce your quarantine time if you test positive. If positive isolate 10 days from your positive test.
 - c. If the second test is negative, continue with your 20-day quarantine from the most recent household member's positive COVID-19 test. (10 days for the COVID-19 positive household member, plus your 10 day quarantine period, equals a total of 20 days.)
- 2) Updated option: CDC guidance allows an end to the isolation period after 17 days if:
 - a. You are symptom free.
 - b. Test negative for Covid-19 on day 15, 16, or 17.