



Safely Back To School (Staff)

Face Coverings: State officials are requiring that all staff (regardless of vaccination status) wear face coverings while inside school buildings this fall unless actively eating/drinking. Face coverings are optional for all adults when outdoors.

Per WaDOH, under very limited circumstances, fully vaccinated staff are able to remove masks when indoors. Prior to doing so, per L&I, staff are required to verify their vaccination status with their employer.

Only staff who are fully vaccinated and complete the reporting process may remove their masks indoors when students and other staff are not present or not expected to be present. Examples when masks may be removed by fully vaccinated staff:

- when in their personal classroom, workspace or individual cubicle where no students (household family members excluded), staff, or public are in the vicinity or expected to enter the area in the near future.

General Physical Distancing: Per L&I, staff should attempt to maintain physical distancing when students are present, and are encouraged to practice social distancing while eating. When students are not present (e.g. collaborative team meetings, staff meetings, office settings) social distancing measures are no longer required.

Food/Drinks: Buildings should do their best to avoid serving food indoors for large groups of people (e.g. potluck, lunch/breakfasts during trainings). If necessary, please try to incorporate boxed/pre-packaged meals, ensure staff keep masks on until seated with food, and try to physically distance as much as possible while eating. Encourage eating outdoors when applicable.

For TK-1st grade, pre-packaged classrooms snacks will be provided by the district and must be consumed outside. Classroom celebrations involving food are not permitted. Please visit with your building administrator for more details.

Classroom Close Contact Exposure: L&I identifies close contact for staff as being less than 6ft from an individual with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24 hr. period. Vaccinated staff are no longer required to quarantine under most circumstances. Staff will be informed if one of their students tests positive or if a significant COVID condition occurs on a campus.

Health Screening: Staff must stay home when sick and are expected to check for symptoms daily at home before coming to campus.

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Enhanced Ventilation: As recommended by WaDOH, cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces should occur only once a day, each night, after students leave, by custodial staff. State authorities no longer recommend the cleaning of desks or manipulatives throughout the day. However, classroom caddies will still be available in classrooms to be used at the discretion of the teacher.

Vaccinations: Schools have been asked by state officials to promote vaccinations for eligible students, teachers, staff and families. While not required at this time, staff and students who are fully vaccinated will avoid most quarantine requirements and may be subject to relaxed masking requirements announced by WaDOH in the future. Per L&I.

COVID Testing: WWPS provides COVID testing for students and staff as part of their layered prevention and response strategy. Testing may further be expanded to include non-vaccinated staff and students as encouraged by WaDOH, the WWPS Board of Directors, or when recommended by local health authorities.