

**Snohomish School District
Re-Opening Committee, June-July 2020**

Washington Department of Health Guidance

<i>Item</i>	<i>Guidance</i>	<i>Current Reality</i>	<i>Next Steps/ What Would it take? / Feasibility</i>
General Guidance	<p>Do not allow students, staff, vendors, parents and guardians, or guests on-site if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are showing symptoms of COVID-19. • Have been in close contact* with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the last 14 days. <p>*Health care providers, EMS workers, and educational staff associate who wore proper personal protective equipment (PPE) are OK to attend.</p>		
General Guidance - Training	<p>Ensure staff are trained in health and safety protocols for your site, including how to screen for symptoms, maintaining physical distance, wearing appropriate PPE, frequent cleaning and handwashing, and what to do if someone develops signs of COVID-19.</p>		
General Guidance - Communication	<p>Communicate regularly with families and staff, and emphasize the importance of staying home when sick, physical distancing of six feet, and hand hygiene.</p>		
General Guidance - Masks	<p>All students, staff, volunteers, and guests must wear cloth face coverings in K-12 settings. See below for more information about cloth face coverings guidance. In addition, schools have a general obligation to provide employees a safe and healthy work site in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules, including addressing hazards associated with COVID-19. Refer to the Department of Labor & Industries' COVID-19 Workplace Safety and Health Requirements for more information.</p>		
General Guidance – Monitoring of Absences	<p>Monitor student and employee attendance and absences, have flexible locally-determined leave policies and practices, and have access to trained substitutes to support employee absences.</p>		

<p>Drop-Off and Entry</p>	<p>Develop a system for drop-off and pick-up that keeps families at least six feet from each other and reduces their need to enter the school. This may include staggering drop-off and pick-up times for various groups, one-way traffic flows, greeting students at their vehicle, or placing distancing markers on walkways.</p>		
<p>Health Screening at Entry</p>	<p>Check for signs of illness for all staff and students at entry each day. For more information or options for temperature checking, see the CDC guidance.</p> <p>Staff and students with any illness must stay home. Every day, ask the parents or guardians the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your student have any of the following symptoms that are not attributable to another condition [on the first day after a break or for a new student, please ask about symptoms in the past three days (72 hours)]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A cough o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing o A fever of 100.4°F or higher or a sense of having a fever o A sore throat o Chills o New loss of taste or smell o Muscle or body aches o Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea o Congestion/running nose – not related to seasonal allergies o Unusual fatigue • Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms that are not attributable to another condition? • Has your student been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19? • Has your student had any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school? <p>The student must be excluded from school if the answer to any of the above questions is “yes.” Refer to “Returning to school after suspected COVID-19 symptoms” below.</p> <p>If the answer to all of the above questions is “no,” check the student for signs of being sick, such as flushed cheeks or tiredness. Keep a distance of at least six feet of space or have a physical barrier between you and the student during assessment.</p>		

<p>Grouping Students</p>	<p>Keep elementary school students in groups with dedicated staff, and maintain consistency from day to day among groups where possible. Multiple groups of students may use the same facility as long as they are in limited contact with other groups.</p>		
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Practice physical distancing (six feet) within each group of students as much as possible. Create space between students and reduce the amount of time they are close with each other. Your ability to do this will depend on students' ages and developmental and physical abilities. Select strategies to increase physical distancing that will work for your school and the space available. Not all strategies will be feasible for all schools. Think creatively about all opportunities to increase physical space between students and limit interactions in large group settings.</p>		
<p>Physical Distancing Strategies</p>	<p>Schools may consider physical distancing strategies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings. Cancel in-person activities and events such as field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, or spirit nights. • Cancel or modify classes where students are likely to be in very close contact. • Suspend or make significant modifications to activities that are considered high risk, such as choir or other classes or activities that require students to remove face coverings, and may contribute to transmission of COVID-19. If these classes or events continue, hold them outdoors or in a large well-ventilated space and with fewer people than usual to allow even greater physical distance between students. Ensure that families understand these activities are high risk. • Increase the space between desks. Rearrange student desks to maximize the space between students. Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets (e.g., from talking, coughing, sneezing). • Reduce the number of students at tables, lab benches, or other workstations to increase physical distance. • Reduce the number of students in the halls at one time. Stagger release of 		

	<p>classes. Limit activities where multiple classrooms interact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagger arrival and/or dismissal times. These approaches can limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations and times. • Reduce congestion in the health office. For example, use the health office for children with flu-like symptoms and a satellite location for first aid or medication distribution. • Limit nonessential visitors. Limit the presence of volunteers for classroom activities, mystery readers, cafeteria support, and other activities. • Limit cross-school transfer for special programs. For example, if students are brought from multiple schools for special programs (e.g., music, robotics, academic clubs), consider using distance learning to deliver the instruction or temporarily offering duplicate programs in the participating schools. • Teach staff, students, and their families to maintain distance from each other in the school. Educate staff, students, and their families at the same time and explain why this is important. • Keep students outside more, as weather and space permits. 		
<p>Meals</p>	<p>Limit gatherings and potential mixing of classes or groups in the cafeteria or other communal spaces. Consider having students take their meals outside or in the classroom. You may accomplish this through meal delivery to classes, or through grab-and-go services. If using the cafeteria, have students sit with their class or group, and ensure physical distance between students and between groups.</p> <p>Stagger meal times in lunchroom or dining hall. Arrange the flow of students to reduce crowding such as at handwashing sinks, food vending areas, etc. Space students as far apart as you can at the table. Make sure tables are at least six feet apart.</p> <p>Individually plate food for each student. The staff (not students) should handle utensils and serve food to reduce spread of germs.</p> <p>Clean and sanitize tables before and after each group eats. Use a washable plastic table cloth for wooden tables.</p>		
<p>Hygiene Practices</p>	<p>Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Children and adults should wash hands when they arrive at school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, after nose blowing or sneezing,</p>		

	<p>and before leaving to go home. Help young children to make sure they are doing it right. Teach children (and adults) not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60 percent alcohol and preferably fragrance-free. Supervise use of alcohol-based hand gel by young children.</p> <p>Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean hands with soap and water or hand gel.</p>		
<p>Cloth Face Coverings</p>	<p>Wearing cloth face coverings may help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is required for staff and students. See the Washington State Department of Health Guidance on Cloth Face Coverings and CDC Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings for more information. All students, volunteers, or guests must wear cloth face coverings at school. For staff, cloth facial coverings must be worn by every individual not working alone at the location unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance. Refer to Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements for additional details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloth face coverings should not be worn by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering. o Those with certain respiratory condition or trouble breathing. o Those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication. o Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person. • Students may use face shields as an alternative to a cloth face covering. • Younger students must be supervised when wearing a cloth face covering or face shield and will need help putting them on, taking them off, and getting used to wearing them. • Even when cloth face coverings are worn, continue practicing proper physical distancing. 		
<p>Bus Transportation</p>	<p>Principles for COVID prevention within school transportation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize outside air and keep windows open as much as possible • Encourage walking, biking, or being driven by caregivers as much as possible 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riders and staff members must wear a cloth face covering • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces • Keep riders as far apart as possible on the bus 		
<p>Response and Communication Plans</p>	<p>To prepare for the potential of student or staff showing symptoms while at school, schools should have a response and communication plan in place that includes communication staff, families, and their local health jurisdiction.</p> <p>If a student or staff member develops signs of COVID-19 (see list under health screenings on page 3), separate the person away from others, with supervision at a distance of six feet, until the sick person can leave. While waiting to leave school, the individual with symptoms should wear a cloth face covering or mask if tolerated. Air out and then clean and disinfect the areas where the person was after they leave.</p> <p>The person with symptoms should follow DOH guidance for what to do if you have symptoms for COVID-19 and have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Ask the employee or student’s parent or caregiver to inform the school right away if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19.</p> <p>If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the local health jurisdiction will advise, but it is likely that many of the student’s classmates will be considered close contacts and need to be quarantined for 14 days. Refer to: What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID- 19)?</p>		
<p>Returning to School</p>	<p>A staff member or student who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to the program when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery – defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up. <p>OR</p> <p>It has been at least three days (72 hours) since recovery AND a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.</p>		

	<p>If a person believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19. They should not go to work, child care, school, or public places for 14 days.</p>		
<p>Cleaning and Disinfecting</p>	<p>Schools should have infection control plans, updated to reflect what is known about COVID- 19. A good resource is <i>Cleaning for Healthier Schools – Infection Control Handbook 2010</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cleaning</i> removes germs, dirt, food, body fluids, and other material. Cleaning increases the benefit of sanitizing or disinfecting. • <i>Sanitizing</i> reduces germs on surfaces to levels that are safe. • <i>Disinfecting</i> kills germs on surfaces of a clean object. • The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates sanitizer and disinfectant chemicals. If you sanitize or disinfect without cleaning first, it will reduce how well these chemicals work and may leave more germs on the surface. 		