



Easton School District No. 28
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September 2021 Health Guidance Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are all excited for this school year! We are continuing to follow our guidelines for K-12 public schools set by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD). We would like to share with you our updated policies and procedures to keep students, staff and the community healthy and safe. Please keep in mind policies and procedures are subject to change as guidance continues to change from the CDC, DOH, and KCPHD.

Cleaning and sanitizing:

Easton School is cleaned and sanitized daily using products that are in compliance with the DOH criteria for safety in response to COVID-19. Secondary students will clean their learning spaces before leaving the classroom, with safe and approved cleaning wipes. Hand sanitizing stations are available in various locations in the hallways and each classroom has a sanitizing area.

Face Coverings:

All staff, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, and guests must wear a two-ply, or more layers, face mask while indoors at school. If there is a medical condition that prohibits a person from wearing a mask, there is a form that must be filled out by a health care provider, and then approved by the Kittitas County Health Department. A clear face shield with a drape may be used with speech therapy, or in situations where learning is significantly inhibited by a cloth mask that covers the teacher's (or speech therapist's) mouth.

Health attestations and temperature taking:

All staff and students will take their temperature prior to boarding the school bus or entering into the building if a non-bus rider. Daily health attestations are no longer required, but we ask you to complete the attached annual health attestation for your student. Staff are also required to complete an annual health attestation. We ask you continue to monitor your student daily for any signs of illness before sending them to school.

Sick policy:

Staff, students, and parents/ guardians will be asked to stay home if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Quarantine lasts 14 days from exposure or seven days with a negative COVID-19 test on day seven. If your student

is fully vaccinated, please let us know, this could change quarantine time. We offer rapid Covid-19 testing at the school. If your student develops Covid-19 symptoms while at school we will contact the listed guardians, or emergency contact. Please make sure your emergency contact list is up to date.

Physical distancing:

As much as possible, students and staff will maintain a three-foot distance between people while on campus except for six feet while eating. Movement of students will be minimized during the school day to reduce the chance of exposure.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will contact tracing work?

Your child's privacy and health are very important to us. If your student tests positive for COVID-19, the Kittitas County Health Department will contact you directly.

- They will ask you who your child has been around for more than 15 minutes from the date of the call minus two days before symptom development.
- These are the contacts that occur outside of the school day, and would be considered the contacts potentially exposed to COVID-19. These contacts would be notified of potential exposure by the Kittitas County Health Department.

If my child tests positive, who in the school district will find out?

Your student's name will not be released by the Kittitas County Health Department or Easton School to the public. The Kittitas County Health Department will notify the school nurse and the superintendent of Easton School District to quickly identify exposure lists. The school nurse and superintendent of Easton School will be working closely with the Kittitas County Health Department to help maintain the privacy of staff and students and to help maintain the health and safety of the school this coming school year.

14 days? 10 days? 7 days? Why the discrepancy?

After a Covid-19 exposure it is advised to quarantine for 14 days or 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test on day 7. This is based on the length of time it can take for symptoms to show up in your body if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Please let us know if your student is fully vaccinated, this can change quarantine time.

If you test positive for Covid-19 you are asked to isolate for 10 days from start of symptoms. 10 days is based on the amount of time from the onset of symptoms that viral particles can be shed in your cough or sneeze and cause others to become ill. It is also the usual length of symptoms for the average COVID patient. If your student is still symptomatic on day 10, they will be required to stay home per the Washington State Department of Health until symptoms have improved or they are 24 hours' fever-free.

Why are schools requiring three feet of social distancing instead of six feet for students?

Other countries and U.S. states have been using three-foot social distancing in school successfully with minimal transmission. Washington state DOH has adopted three-foot social distancing for the 2021/2022 school year. In a K-12 indoor classroom, the close contact definition currently excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infected student when other prevention strategies were in place such as masking.

Will my student get mask breaks?

Yes, they will. When students are outside, they can take off their masks, this includes recess and P.E. Many teachers are planning to teach some lessons outside.

Will you be testing my student for Covid-19 without my knowledge?

We will always contact you before testing your student. There is a permission slip that must be filled out in order to test your student. Rapid Covid-19 tests are available at the school for students and staff. If your student gets sick while at school, we will contact you and ask if we can test for Covid-19.

Will masks be available at the school and what masks are acceptable?

We have surgical masks, K95, N95 and face shields available for staff, students and volunteers. An acceptable mask or face covering is least 2-ply, covers your mouth and nose and fits securely under your chin and on the sides of your face.

Will parents be allowed to volunteer?

Yes. All classroom volunteers will need proof of vaccination or a medical or religious exemption submitted to the school district by 10/18/21. If you are visitor coming for a brief period of time, such as to drop off cupcakes for your child's birthday, this does not apply.

If you have any questions, please contact the Easton School District Office.

Tim Berndt, Superintendent/ Principal

Rachel Henderson, Easton School District Nurse