



# Reopening Guide

Updated:

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This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be regularly updated as new information becomes available and as we receive additional questions. Please check back often and do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have any questions that are not listed here.

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## **The reopening of the Ferndale Schools was guided by the following principles:**

- Protect the health and safety of students and staff
- Follow the guidelines set out by the Department of Health, OSPI, and L & I
- Provide students with some familiarity of school routines for social/emotional/academic learning
- Provide clear expectations for teachers, parents and students during this transition to hybrid learning

*Click on the links below for more information on each topic*

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

CLEANING, VENTILATION, WATER, AND HYGIENE

LEARNING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

SCHEDULING, CALENDAR, AND SPECIFIC ROLES

LUNCH, BREAKS, AND RECESS

BUILDING AND CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

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## **HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

(Reference: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-105-K12Schools2021-2022.pdf>)

**How are schools ensuring monitoring of [symptoms](#) and history of exposure among students and staff?**

The state school reopening requirements no longer include daily health screenings of both staff and students. Staff, students, and families will monitor for the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (temperature 100.4 F or greater) or chills
- Cough
- Recent loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Unusual fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students and staff may not use any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school.

## **What are the safety measures being implemented for FSD classrooms? (August 12, 2021 Guidance)**

- Physical distancing (pg. 5):
  - Students in classrooms will be 3 feet apart
  - Students outside of the classroom (common spaces, hallways, etc.) will maintain 6 feet distancing to the greatest extent possible
  - Staff maintain 6 feet distance from each student and other staff members
  - Unmasked students and staff will maintain the 6 feet distance, i.e. while eating, or during recess
- Hygiene Practices (pg. 7): Students and adults will be instructed to clean or sanitize hands when they arrive at school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose or sneezing. Students are taught and encouraged to not touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the school.
- Face Coverings (pg. 4): All students and staff must wear cloth face coverings or acceptable alternatives while inside a school, in a Ferndale School District building, or when riding on school transportation.
- Volunteers will have access to our schools. They will be expected to follow all health and safety guidelines
- Close contact means that you have been within 6 feet of someone testing positive with COVID-19 for cumulative 15 minutes or more in a day. Students wearing masks are not considered close-contacts while in their classroom if they maintain 3 feet of distance. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 reported on site we will complete line tracing to identify individuals who are considered close contacts. Individuals (Parents/Guardians for minor students) identified as close contacts will receive notification as soon as reasonably possible. We will consult with Whatcom County Health Department to determine if other unusual circumstances arise that warrant further investigation to determine if close contact has occurred.

## **How will FSD protect students and community at higher risk for COVID-19 while ensuring access to learning?**

Virtual options for the 2021-22 school year include the Ferndale Family Partnership (K-8) and the Ferndale Virtual Academy (9-12).

## **Can students who show any signs of illness attend school?**

Do NOT send your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of illness. Please call your student's school and report the reason for their absence. Students who present with signs of illness or have a temperature of 100.4 F or higher will be sent home from school. An administrator, nurse, and/or office staff member will call the families to arrange immediate pick up of the sick child. While waiting, they will be placed in an isolation area.

## **What is the process for a student who becomes ill during the day?**

- Remove ill students as soon as possible.
- When available, students will be given a disposable face covering supplied by FSD.
- Classroom teachers notify the office and the student will be directed to the isolation room.
  - Students will be supervised by staff in the appropriate PPE
  - The area previously occupied by the symptomatic student will remain vacant, marked as such, and cleaned when appropriate.

- The space where the student sat in the classroom will be flagged for custodial staff, with appropriate PPE, to clean per protocol
- The affected area will be cleaned per health guidelines. Custodial staff, with recommendation from the maintenance supervisor, will manage the cleaning and disinfecting of affected sites.
  - The area will be cleaned by custodial staff with PPE based on wait time between student leaving and need for cleaning

**What is the plan for students or staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 on a Ferndale School District campus?**

The staff or student who is positive will be prohibited from on site activities. If an individual has been on site and is later diagnosed with COVID-19 (within 48 hours of onset of symptoms or positive COVID-19 test) FSD will complete line tracing to identify close contacts and those considered contacts will be notified and quarantined for 14 days since the last exposure to the positive case as per DOH guidance. This may be reduced pending a negative COVID test between 3-5 days following exposure.

During quarantine they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during this time period. They should not go to work, child care, school, or public places during quarantine. If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 during their quarantine they should seek testing for COVID-19 and follow the directives in accordance with the Whatcom County Health Department. An individual's return date to onsite activities will be adjusted based on if an individual develops symptoms and/or has tested positive for COVID-19.

If an individual is identified as a close contact and they are fully vaccinated, they do not have to be quarantined, unless they begin to exhibit symptoms

**What is the plan for students or staff who report they have been exposed to COVID-19 not on FSD campuses?**

If a person has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 or is notified by the Health Department that they have been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person, they should quarantine for 14 days. If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 during their quarantine, they should seek testing for COVID-19 and follow guidance above for confirmed COVID-19 cases. It is also recommended that they consider testing at Day 3-5 post exposure even if no symptoms are present. A negative test 7-10 days after exposure shortens the quarantine period to 10 days if not symptomatic. A positive test may change a return date. Please inform your student's building if your student has had contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, is in quarantine or has tested positive.

If an individual is identified as a close contact and they are fully vaccinated, or have evidence of a positive test in the past 90 days, they do not have to be quarantined, unless they begin to exhibit symptoms.

**What is the plan in each building for separate spaces for COVID-related symptoms/illness and regular health room needs (first aid, medications, etc.)**

If there is a suspected case of COVID-19 on campus, trained health staff will assess the person and make the recommendation for the affected person to leave campus. Every school will have an identified isolation space for symptomatic students, separate from the Health Room, where the student will remain

until they leave campus. While in the isolation space, they will be required to continue to wear a disposable face covering, provided by the district, or maintain use of their cloth face covering and will be provided 6 feet or more of physical distance. During this time, the symptomatic person will be supervised while avoiding potential exposure to others, including the supervisor. The isolation space will be marked and not used until cleaning can safely occur. There may be several individual spaces within an isolation room, each at least 6 feet apart from the others.

The Health Room will be utilized for medication/treatment management and non-illness related concerns. Minor injuries (scrapes and bruises) will be managed in the classroom setting when possible.

**What is the plan in each building for separate spaces for COVID-related symptoms/illness and regular health room needs (first aid, medications, etc.)**

The Health Room will be a separate space than the Isolation Room. Each building has identified locations for both of these rooms. If a student becomes ill during the day, the student is escorted to the Isolation Room for evaluation. If going to the Isolation Room will cause undue distress (special populations), the student will be isolated away from others and the Health Room/office will be called for assistance.

**How will the District ensure privacy and meet requirements of HIPPA/FERPA?**

Collected health information will be secured in a manner that both ensures privacy and compliance with HIPPA/FERPA requirements. The District COVID Supervisor will retain these documents and share with Whatcom County Health Department, as necessary, in the event of contact tracing needs.

The district will allow only individuals who are on the COVID teams the ability to access individual's information that a school or building collects. When a parent supplies electronic or phone messages to other staff, those will be handled appropriately and confidentially. Other school district staff will be provided information only on a need to know basis for contact line tracing or students/staff specified reasons, as determined by the nurse and/or COVID team. If correspondence is shared electronically, the subject line will include a "confidential" indicator.

**How will the school district communicate confirmed cases or outbreaks to staff and families? ([Reference pg. 13](#))**

The district is in collaboration with the local health department and has a communication plan in place to inform staff and families of a confirmed case as well as protocol for quarantine requirements. The health department will take the lead on this.

Additional information: [COVID-19 Exposure](#)

**Where do I find the most current information regarding COVID-19 risk assessment data for Whatcom County?**

[Washington State COVID-19 Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#)

**Is there capacity in your local health department to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?**

Line tracing, through an assigned public health nurse, and monitoring community health risks have been put in place for Whatcom County.

**What if my child's symptoms are caused by a non-contagious condition?**

There are many non-contagious conditions that may cause symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. These include exercise induced asthma, migraines associated with normal patterns and/or triggers, muscle injury, etc. For those with symptoms related to non-contagious medical conditions, a health care professional must validate that all symptoms present are related to another diagnosed condition; in this case, there is no reason for them to not come to school, provided that attendance does not make their conditions worse. For students, make sure the school nurse and teacher is aware of the cause and concern. However, if any of these symptoms are worse than usual or different, please stay home. All information received requires a COVID-19 staff review for DOH necessary compliance and on occasion consultation with WCHD prior to returning on site.

**When can a student or staff member return to school after having symptoms of or COVID-19? (Reference Pg. 9)**

Students and staff who have **symptoms of COVID-19** can return to school when:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as no fever without the use of medications **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms (any class A symptom or a class B symptom with 24 hour duration) first showed up. **OR**
- Health care provider has certified that the student or staff tests negative for COVID-19, fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.
- Students and staff must also follow all DOH/WCHD guidelines approved by the local health jurisdiction.

Students and staff who have **confirmed COVID-19** can return to school when:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as no fever without the use of medications **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up.

**What if my child or someone in my family has symptoms and needs to get tested?**

First, please contact your primary care physician. COVID-19 testing site information is available at [testdirectly.com](https://testdirectly.com) or call (360)778-6075. Notify the school office staff if there are barriers to obtain a test.

**What is surveillance testing?**

**Surveillance testing is testing of asymptomatic people on a regularly scheduled basis. This can be useful with people who are not vaccinated and can also be useful for vaccinated and unvaccinated people as COVID can be present without symptoms being apparent.**

**Symptomatic Testing**

Symptomatic testing is available at all of our schools for 2021-22. This can be used to reduce quarantine time after displaying symptoms and after close contacts.

**I am extremely worried that a student or staff member in the FSD will get COVID-19, and I am afraid to send my child back to school. What should I do?**

All of the safety measures in place significantly reduce the risk that it would spread at school. However, the chance is not zero. If you are extremely worried about this possibility, it would be best to consider our Ferndale Family Partnership (K-8) or Ferndale Virtual Academy (9-12) programs. Please be aware that capacity in all programs will determine whether we are able to accommodate requests.

### **Will students maintain the 3 and 6 foot distancing at all times?**

Maintaining 3 and 6 foot distance to the greatest extent possible are our target goals according to the location of the student and staff member (staff are to remain 6 feet from other staff and students). There will be times when students are within 6 feet of one another (in classrooms the distance will be 3 feet), but those will be short in duration and Whatcom County Health Department deems this “casual contact” to be generally safe. On the playground and during mask breaks, as well as when eating and drinking, students may not have to wear masks. While playing outside they may be closer than 6 feet apart for short periods of time. This is also considered to be “casual contact.”

Anyone inside a school building or using district transportation will need to wear their masks from the moment they arrive at the school until they leave, unless they are outside and 6’ from another person. When students can be physically distanced, they may remove face coverings to eat and drink, while participating in outside activities, or when taking mask breaks. If students need a “mask break,” staff will take them outside or to a large, well ventilated room where there is sufficient space to ensure more than six (6) feet of physical distance between people. On occasions, a brief period of passing within 6’ may occur, which is considered incidental with little risk of transmission. Staff on campus are also expected to follow the mask requirements; however, if working alone in a room or outside and maintaining distance staff may remove their masks.

### **Will the school group students?**

#### **In the 2021-22 school year:**

Schools do not need to cohort or group students when able to adhere to masking and distancing guidelines. This can be an effective mitigation strategy where other measures are not in place. This limits the transmission to those people within the cohort.

#### **In the 2020-21 school year:**

Elementary: P-5 students will be with their assigned cohort throughout a school day whenever possible. Students working with specialists and during their lunch times may mix with other students from other cohorts during a school day; in those mixed groups, students will maintain 6 foot distance. Students will be around other students on the bus. To the extent possible, schedules will be created to limit the number of students and staff members in contact with one another.

On buses, family members living together in the same household may be grouped together.

Secondary: Students will not be in groups; however, they will be expected to maintain 3 and 6 foot distancing at all times.

### **How will schools handle a COVID-19 outbreak in a classroom? ([Reference Pg. 9](#))**

According to Whatcom County Health Department, an outbreak of cases in a single classroom or cohort occurs when there are multiple cases within a single class or when it is determined that the transmission likely occurred within a class. In this case, the Whatcom County Health Department will be contacted and we will follow their recommendation, or we might choose a more cautious approach.

### **What if more than one classroom has a COVID-19 outbreak? ([Reference Pg. 10](#))**

Similar to a classroom outbreak, if multiple classrooms have cases and it appears that the transmission is linked to the school, beyond a single classroom, the Whatcom County Health Department will be



consulted. In each case the school will follow the guidance of the Whatcom County Health Department or a more cautious option.

**How many staff or students need to test positive before school is closed? Who makes this decision?**

The Whatcom County Health Officer, the Governor, or the district superintendent can close district schools. In all cases we will refer to Whatcom County Health Department for recommendation. The K-12 Guidance is set up to work to minimize the risk of whole school closure. If we have a single case in a staff member or student the Health Department will assess the close contacts and direct those people to quarantine. The Health Department will not recommend building closure unless they see evidence of school transmission. Each outbreak will be closely watched and decisions made based on the epidemiology of the cases.

**What should you do if you are [high-risk](#)?**

Those at high risk for health problems from COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider when considering whether to provide or participate in PK-12 activities. Families should carefully consider risks and benefits of participating in in-person school.

**What health and safety data informs the decision to open or close school buildings?**

The District utilizes guidance/input from State and Local Health Departments, in conjunction with the “Decision Tree for Provision of in Person Learning Among Public and Private K-12 Students During COVID-19,” to determine when it is appropriate to modify instructional models.

Other considerations include: Increasing trend in cases or hospitalizations, Test Positivity, and other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families.

**What is the re-entry protocol for students and staff who test positive?**

The District will follow all Department of Health/Whatcom County Health Department approved guidelines for re-entering students/employees to the onsite learning location/workplace following required quarantine. Students or staff who test positive will need to isolate and not return to school or work for at least 10 days and 24- hours after symptoms resolve. A negative test is not required to return. The Health Department will work with the school district to confirm that someone has completed their isolation period prior to returning.

**What is the guidance for fully vaccinated individuals?**

- Vaccinated people do not have any changes for at school and at work mitigation. Explicitly, there is no change for mask wearing, social distancing, or hand washing.
- Fully vaccinated people or people who have been tested positive for COVID who come in close contact with a COVID positive case will not be required to complete a 14 day quarantine if they are within past 90 days of their positive test or fully vaccinated and do not become symptomatic.
- Fully vaccinated people or people who have been tested positive for COVID who come in close contact with a COVID positive case and become symptomatic will be required to quarantine.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**



## **What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is FSD providing?**

FSD will provide staff as appropriate following the OSPI and L&I guidance:

- Cloth face coverings or non-cloth coverings dependent on the guidance/task
- Face shields per ADA as an accommodation. Face shields used without masks must comply with DOH guidance for efficacy.
- Face shields are not nearly as protective as coverings. In rare circumstances, a person may wear a face shield based on individual accommodations.
- Face shields may be worn as an added extra protection for the wearer when used in conjunction with a face covering.
- Gloves
- Surgical and respirator masks will be used in accordance with L&I guidance depending on the risk level of the job.
- Gowns for certain duties per L&I guidance
- Eye protection for custodial staff using disinfectants/sanitizers as per L&I safety data sheets

## **What is the standard for receiving additional PPE? How will expectations for face coverings be enforced for staff, students, and visitors?**

Staff, students, and families should utilize the district Guidance for Selecting Personal Protective Equipment, based on OSPI and L&I guidance to inform their decisions for selecting appropriate PPE.

Administrators with consultation from school nurses provide ongoing identification, review staff assignments and determine if an increase of PPE is necessary per L&I guidance.

Staff should consult with their building's nurse to determine if an increase in PPE is necessary for tasks they think may require a higher level before performing the task. The nurse in consultation with the district COVID lead will determine if the request for the increase is validated.

FSD will provide staff with appropriate masks, and a face shield when necessary. Additionally, there will be disposable masks readily available for staff and students, as needed. Wearing a face covering is currently a requirement for all indoor spaces in schools, per Governor Inslee's proclamation for Washington State; it is both a professional and personal responsibility, as well as the law. These expectations will be clearly stated throughout school buildings. Students, staff, and other visitors will be reminded of these expectations in the event that they are not in compliance. Those refusing to comply may be required to leave the campus.

Anyone indoors on a school campus will need to wear their masks from the moment they enter the building until they exit; masks may be removed outside so long as physical distance is maintained. Students may remove face coverings to eat and drink, and/or during outside activities for mask breaks when they can be physically distanced. If students need a "mask break," staff will take them outside or to a large, well ventilated room where there is sufficient space to ensure more than six (6) feet of physical distance between people. On occasions, a brief period of passing within 6' may occur. Staff on campus are also required to follow the mask requirements.

Students riding buses must also wear face coverings while on the bus.

## **If students aren't wearing masks at recess, can they be less than 6 feet apart?**

As students are playing outside at recess/break, there may be times when they are less than 6 feet apart for short amounts of time. According to Whatcom County Health Department, this type of incidental contact is not the same level of concern as long as the contact was brief and random. However, incidents

such as coughing or sneezing in the vicinity of individuals not wearing a mask is a higher level of concern; consequently, we need to maintain physical distance as much as possible.

### **What are the guidelines for face coverings? ([Reference pg. 4](#)) ([Cloth Face Masks](#))**

- According to a statewide order, all individuals in Washington State must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when inside any school building.
- *Cloth* face coverings should not be worn by:
  - Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
  - Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
  - Those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and those who provide instruction to such people and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
  - Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.
- In *rare circumstances* when a cloth face covering cannot be worn, students and staff may use a clear face covering or a face shield with a drape as an alternative to a cloth face covering. If used, face shields should extend below the chin, to the ears, have no gap at the forehead and have a drape.
- Younger students must be supervised when wearing a face covering or face shield and may need help putting them on, taking them off, and getting used to wearing them.
- Even when cloth face coverings are worn, we will continue practicing physical distancing.
- Students may remove face coverings to eat and drink and when they go outdoors for recess/breaks, or other outside activities when they can be physically distanced. If students need a “mask break,” take them outside or to a large, well ventilated room where there is sufficient space to ensure more than the recommended six feet of physical distance between people.
- For all staff members providing assistance to students who have special needs, the school is responsible for providing appropriate PPE.

### **I have a disability and cannot wear a face covering. What can I do?**

If for some reason you are unable to comply with the Governor’s mask order, please contact your child’s school before coming to campus to make accommodations. Individuals without face coverings cannot enter our buildings; however, we may be able to provide accommodations to ensure these individuals receive the access they need.

### **Will face coverings be provided?**

Face coverings will be available in accordance with L&I guidance.

### **What if I don’t want my student to wear a face covering or cannot support all of the health measures?**

Face coverings and the other health measures listed here are required by law. For the safety of the other students and staff, we are unable to allow individuals who refuse to wear a face covering to remain at school.

### **What should a staff member do when a student refuses to put on a mask or wear it properly?**

For students who are not exempt from the face covering requirement, schools should take steps to educate the student on safety compliance, implement positive behavior interventions, and, when appropriate, consult with the student’s parent or guardian. The District may consider temporarily sending a student home, as a last resort, for refusing to wear a face covering (exceptions in the case of medical, behavioral or other disability prohibiting mask adherence). If a student is sent home, the school must provide the student with an opportunity to receive educational services during this time and then return

the student to their regular educational setting when the student is willing to comply with mask-wearing. Students who are unable to consistently wear a face covering, including those with disabilities, must not be disciplined or denied access to educational services as a result.

**What is the plan for training staff (including intermittent staff) on the new health and safety protocols? What is included in that training?**

All staff are required to take the Safe Schools COVID training modules. Additionally, principals will cover safety measures and all the details for keeping campus safe, including, but not limited to, playground, student entry-exit, travel patterns, bathrooms, lunches and hygiene.

**How will the District ensure adequate contact tracing for any positive test for a student, parent/guardian or staff member?**

The Whatcom County Health Department is jointly responsible for contact tracing along with district staff. The District will provide necessary information as requested by the Health Department to support their contact tracing efforts. School building and district COVID coordinators will do symptom tracking and follow the DOH/WCHD approved protocols to determine when students/staff may return to campus in consultation when needed with WCHD. Return to campus may be different than return to work in other settings outside of the Public Schools.

**What precautions are you going to take for specialized positions (LS/OTs/PTs/SLPs/BD Room) etc?**

Staff with responsibilities that by nature increase their risk will be provided increased levels of PPE in accordance with L&I guidance. When a service is provided in person, environmental measures and Personal Protective Equipment needs will be addressed on a case by case basis with the Director of Special Education and in collaboration with the building school nurse and district COVID lead.

## **CLEANING, VENTILATION, WATER AND HYGIENE**

**How will FSD modify ventilation? ([Reference pg. 9](#))**

FSD has several strategies it's employing to increase the air exchange in our spaces. They include the following:

- Maximizing outside air settings as much as possible without drastically impacting thermal comfort.
- Open windows and doors where possible and if the weather allows.
- Extend HVAC systems schedules to run before and after spaces are occupied to increase air movement (2-hours before and 2-hours after school starts and ends).
- If the outside air ratio is controlled by a CO2 sensor, reduce the CO2 setting to increase the amount of outside air brought into the room.
- Use the highest rated filter compatible with the existing filter rack that doesn't impact system performance.

We strongly recommend that students and staff are dressed appropriately for the weather. Due to the increased air exchange our classrooms may be cooler during the colder months of the year. In addition, we plan to get students outside more year-round for breaks. All-weather attire is necessary for this.

**My classroom doesn't have a window, is the room safe?**

Yes. HVAC systems are designed to provide a healthy percentage of fresh air per room with all windows and doors closed. Even if a room doesn't have a window, there is fresh air being pulled in by the system for that space. If you have concerns about air flow in your workspace, please contact your building or department administrator.

**What plans are in place to address water fountains?**

Water fountains may be turned off and/or “locked” for hygienic reasons. Personal water bottles can be brought from home, and paper cups can be used for staff and students. Bottle fill stations are also available at each school.

**How will cleaning and disinfecting procedures be modified? ([Reference pg. 8](#))**

FSD custodial staff have been trained in cleaning practices that meet infection control guidelines. ([Cleaning for Healthier Schools - Infection Control Handbook](#)) Custodial staff will be using certified cleaning products throughout our schools and paying special attention to disinfecting and sanitizing high touch areas and locations in our schools. High touch areas will receive regular cleaning throughout each school day.

**What plans are in place for high-touch surfaces?**

High touch surfaces such as countertops, door knobs, light switches, faucets, etc will be disinfected multiple times daily in high use areas.

**Shared Hands-On Teaching Materials**

Students will be required to wash or use hand sanitizer between using shared materials. Limit shared teaching materials, including PE equipment. Children’s books and other paper-based materials do not need to be disinfected. Ensure adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high touch materials as much as possible. An example includes assigning each student their own art supplies or limiting the use for one group of children at a time. Consider keeping each student’s belongings separate and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

**What cleaning, if any, is expected by staff; for example, desks/chairs between classes/transitions, certain materials/surfaces?**

Classrooms will be equipped with cleaning supplies and spray bottles for use by staff.

Transmission occurs in an airborne form; if a student exhibits signs of illness, that station should be cleaned prior to its next use.

**How will individual personal hygiene be handled and provided for (i.e. handwashing stations, hand sanitizer to supplement, but not replace hand washing)?**

Hand sanitizer will be provided in classrooms without sinks and running water. Handwashing for 20-seconds with soap and water or hand sanitizing will be required upon entering from outside, prior to eating, and after using the bathroom.

**If a child becomes sick during the school day how is the space cleaned?**

- We are following Whatcom County Health guidelines for protocols regarding a sick or suspected case of Covid in a school space.
- The affected area will remain undisturbed until cleaned and disinfected by custodial staff.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces each night after students leave and when someone is sick in the room (vomit, blood, feces, urine). When disinfecting surfaces, always follow the disinfectant instructions on the label.

Do not use ionization, fogging, fumigation, or wide-area spraying to control the spread of COVID-19. These methods are not effective, do not clean contaminated surfaces, and are hazardous to human health. The EPA has approved the use of electrostatic sprayers with some disinfectants. If the electrostatic application is not listed on the label, it is not an approved application method. Surfaces still need to be cleaned first and then the disinfectant applied to the surface for the required wet time. Use the large droplet setting to avoid misting as much as possible. Do not use for wide-area spraying.

**How will the District determine the capacity of each room? What regulations will be in place regarding student desk/table arrangement, alternate seating (i.e. carpet time, moving of students) and direction(s) students are facing?**

Capacity will be determined based on the available square footage of each classroom space and in accordance with [CDC recommendations](#). Modified layouts will include spacing students at least 3 feet apart, turning desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), and modifying learning stations and activities so there are fewer students per group, placed at least 3 feet apart. In addition to the CDC recommendations, we will adhere to the guidance regarding classrooms set-ups from the [Washington State Department of Health](#). Students' ability to participate in in-school instruction will not be restricted due to distancing requirements.

## **SCHEDULING, CALENDAR, AND SPECIFIC ROLES**

**When are parent-teacher conferences this year?**

At the elementary level, conferences were held at the beginning of the 20-21 school year. Middle and High School conferences will be held in October and in March. The district calendar can be accessed on the [district website](#).

**What are the particular impacts of this model on SPED services, Evaluations, & IEPs?**

School districts continue to be required to meet minimum basic education requirements and provide all students access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). This includes the provision of services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The work of special educators continues to be centered around ensuring students with disabilities can safely access and benefit from a FAPE. Key components of this work include:

- Providing Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) and monitoring progress toward students' annual goals,
- Supporting teachers and our students with disabilities in providing/accessing core content in the most inclusive model appropriate for the student, and
- Engaging families as partners in IEP planning.

While special education services may be provided differently than they have in the traditional site-based model, in most cases case managers are able to provide similar services through a different mode of instruction.

At the secondary level, students will remain their case manager between semesters, but might have a different teacher for their instructional classes

**How will FSD transport or facilitate drop-off and pick-up of students? (Reference p. 7)**

Families driving their students to and from school each day helps to reduce the number of students on each bus.

Schools will also have a school entry and exit plan that will limit student interaction when arriving and departing each campus. Students will have specific entry and exit requirements through open doors to limit close contact.

Bus ventilation will be increased by opening windows. Students will be assigned seating. Seating charts will be updated weekly and available in the dispatch office for contact tracing. Masks will be provided to students who arrive at the bus without masks, as mask use is required. Students will remain seated, forward facing, with loud voices and distance conversations discouraged. Students will remain on buses until the designated building arrival to avoid unsupervised social distancing. Unload areas will be marked with flow patterns and social distancing requirements.

### **What will school start times be?**

Schools have returned to their regular (prior to COVID) bell schedules. Elementary: 9:30-3:30; VMS: 7:58-2:27, HMS: 8:02-2:30, FHS: 7:40-2:16.

### **How will the District staffing decisions & schedule support the necessary health & safety measures and support social & emotional needs?**

We follow state and local health department guidelines and safety protocols, and data from the social-emotional survey will continue to inform and guide our return to school preparations. We have built social emotional learning opportunities into the schedule.

### **Are there any classes that might look different and/or have a different schedule in this model than others? (AP? Advanced math? Title/LAP? EL?)**

Yes, for certain classes, depending on the particular needs of the program.

## **LEARNING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES**

### **When did FSD move to full time in-person learning?**

April 29, 2021.

### **Are there circumstances when the FSD will pull back from in-person learning to remote learning?**

Schools and/or classes and/or grades of students might have to return to a remote or hybrid learning model based on requirements/recommendations from the WCHD or the Governor's Office. The Whatcom County Health Department and the Superintendent have the authority to close a school and/or classroom due to a health emergency.

### **Will students in our alternate learning programs (Ferndale Virtual Academy and Ferndale Family Partnership) have access to meals?**

Yes; please contact the school in your attendance area if you would like to avail yourself to this. However, this will require students to have meals on campus; there are no meal collection sites, or to-go meal services for 21-22. Through the end of this school year, all students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch when on one of our campuses. Applying for the Free and Reduced lunch program continues to be very important as this information is used to provide fee waivers and allows the district to apply for vital federal and state funds to serve students.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications will be a part of this year's student registration process.

### **What are the attendance requirements for our students?**

#### **Elementary:**

NEW SECTION WAC 392-401A-015 Definition of absence from in-person learning.

(1) A student is absent from in-person learning when the student is:

(a) Not physically present on school grounds; and

(b) Not participating in the following activities at an approved location during a scheduled in-person learning day:

(i) Instruction;

(ii) Any instruction-related activity; or

(iii) Any other district- or school-approved activity that is regulated by an instructional/academic accountability system, such as participation in district-sponsored sports.

(2) A full day absence from in-person learning is when a student is absent for fifty percent or more of their scheduled day.

**Secondary:**

NEW SECTION WAC 392-401A-015 Definition of absence from in-person learning:

(1) A student is absent from in-person learning when the student is:

(a) Not physically present on school grounds; and

(b) Not participating in the following activities at an approved location during a scheduled in-person learning day:

(i) Instruction;

(ii) Any instruction-related activity; or

(iii) Any other district- or school-approved activity that is regulated by an instructional/academic accountability system, such as participation in district-sponsored sports.

(2) A full day absence from in-person learning is when a student is absent for fifty percent or more of their scheduled day.

**Excusing Absences:**

Parents or guardians must notify their student's school the reason for the absence within 48-hours

In remote learning, please report student absences by:

- o A telephone call to the main office before the absence or up to two days afterward
- o An email to the attendance secretary



We encourage parents or guardians to contact the school as soon as is reasonably possible when an absence is known

Absences may be excused for:

- o Illness
- o Chronic or extended health condition
- o Family emergency
- o Religious or cultural purposes
- o Parental approved activities
- o Disciplinary actions

Due to COVID-19, excusable absences include the following:

- o The student's illness, health condition, or medical appointments due to COVID-19;
- o caring for a family member who has an illness, health condition, or medical appointment due to COVID-19;
- o the student's employment or other family obligations during regularly scheduled school hours that are temporarily necessary due to COVID-19 until other arrangements can be made, including placement in a more flexible education program;
- o the student's parent or guardian's work schedule or other obligations during regularly scheduled school hours, until other arrangements can be made;
- o Other COVID-19 related circumstances as determined between school and parent/guardian or emancipated youth.

#### **How will the district work with students who are quarantined?**

The district is obligated to provide educational access for students who are quarantined. The delivery method of this is under development and more information will be provided shortly.

#### **How will the school handle behavior concerns?**

Due to the nature of COVID, the school's capacity to manage particular behaviors will be limited. As such, it is important students follow school rules with a greater degree of independence. Families are also asked to share any concerns with their child's teacher.

We will be particularly aware of the following situations and issues:

1. Reluctant students\*
2. Social/emotional concerns including new concerns because of new class, teacher, environment, friendships
3. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP)
4. Behavior/disciplinary issues
5. General academic concerns
6. Late and absent students
7. Child protection issues
8. Frequency of complaints of COVID-like symptoms on campus
9. Intentional behavior putting students/staff at risk for COVID (coming to school when they know they are ill, or coming when they have been tested or been exposed to COVID positive people (both staff and students).
10. Refusal to wear mask or follow social distancing protocols

## BUILDING AND CLASSROOM GUIDELINES-

### In general:

- All movement around and within the building is to happen with the expected 6' distance; at times this may be momentarily breached in order to pass within the classroom where students are spaced at 3', or in passing
- Students and staff should only return to campus following any signs of illness, exposure to COVID, testing positive for COVID, or being asked to quarantine, only when cleared by the building COVID team
- All persons must comply with contact tracing
- All persons must wear mask not including the exceptions above
- Students are on campus for the duration of the school day
- Students may not enter the building before their arrival time

### What is the plan for the movement of people in the building?

Elementary: Students moving around and within the building will adhere to the expected 6 feet social distancing.

Secondary: Staff will monitor passing times and encourage adherence to the expected 6 feet social distance to the greatest extent possible; these expectations must be reinforced consistently by all staff. Students will be supervised throughout the building, with the exception of individuals accessing the restroom, arriving late to school, or accessing the health room for injuries/treatments/medications.

### Expectations for students:

- Students will be allowed in the building through their assigned entry location
- Students will enter the building without parents at their assigned entrance door
- As much as reasonably possible students should stay 6 feet apart when entering and exiting the building.
- Secondary: Breakfast and transition to first period will be designated by building protocols
- Students bring only the minimal school items that are needed for the day and take it all to their classrooms.
  - Students may want to bring:
    - School communication folder (elementary only)
    - Change of clothes
    - Refillable water bottle
    - Extra mask
    - Lunch if brought from home
    - **Devices must be** brought to school at secondary
      - Secondary students may bring their personally owned devices
    - Secondary students should bring their device in a backpack
  - Students will not have access to lockers except in high school athletics
- Students must wash hands or sanitize upon entering the classroom when coming from outside
- In order for these arrangements to work well, it is really important for students and parents to stick to the designated arrival and dismissal times as much as possible
- Students who arrive late must enter using the main entrance.
- Elementary: Students will be taken to the dismissal points by teachers. When parents are there to pick up their child, the student will be released by the teacher. Students riding buses will load buses following building protocols. Staff members will take their classes to the dismissal areas.
- Secondary: At dismissal, students will leave the building maintaining 6' distance, and those riding the buses will load following bus protocols
- Assigned wash stations or hand sanitizer will be available for those classes without sinks.

### **Expectations for families**

- Arrival time and dismissal time-it is very important to keep to these times to encourage social distancing
- Families are encouraged to drop off their students outside of the building
- Families are encouraged to allow their child to make the last part of the journey into school or an identified checkpoint, independently unless delivering a reluctant child
- Families are encouraged to deliver older students at the car drop off location
- Elementary families will pick up children at the designated area- please note the pickup points are different from the entrance area.

### **Staff**

- Staff may enter through designated entrances
- Staff must wash hands or sanitize when entering the building
- Staff need to use the six-foot distancing
- Staff must wear masks at all times while in the building; the only exception is if they are in their office/classroom alone
- Staff will be provided their own lunch break; they will not eat when students eat and will remain masked while supervising students
- Lunch rooms for staff will remain closed

### **Can we do PE?**

Whenever possible, PE should occur outdoors. Students must wash hands or sanitize prior to using shared equipment.

If PE occurs indoors, strenuous activities should be avoided, social distancing and face coverings must be adhered to. Doors and windows should be kept open whenever possible and fans utilized to improve ventilation.

In addition:

- Modify or adjust cardio/weight equipment to maintain 6' of space between individuals
- Limit locker room access to restrooms only, prohibiting the use of showers/changing areas
- Encourage students to bring their own water bottles
- Students and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after each exercise session
- Use floor markings to show physical distancing requirements
- Provide adequate time between classes in order to clean appropriately

### **Locker rooms and showers**

Locker room and shower usage should be limited to vaccinated persons as much as possible. Locker rooms will not be used for PE.

In locker rooms, maximize ventilation. Ensure that exhaust fans are working at the maximum level. See the ventilation section for details. Visual cues can be helpful for unvaccinated persons to maintain physical distancing. Stagger entry to the changing area.

### **How should we manage tools/equipment in CTE classes?**

Hands should be washed or sanitized before using equipment.

## **LUNCH, BREAKS, AND RECESS**

### **How will students be provided breaks and recess?**

Elementary: Staff will be taking students outside for regular breaks and recess. Classes are always encouraged to get outside for instruction, activities and recreation as often as possible.

Middle School: teachers will provide mask breaks as students need

High School: teachers will provide mask breaks as students need

### **Elementary Outdoor Play**

A revised recess schedule has been created to provide increased outdoor playtime for all students and limit the number of students on the playground at one time.

### **Elementary student expectations for outdoor play**

- Students are expected to follow the school rules and cooperate when instructed and directed
- Students are expected to adhere to all procedures so the school can follow the guidelines for health and safety
- Designated play areas may be rotated
- Students who are unable to meet the playground expectations will not be permitted on the playground
- Students must maintain, as much as reasonably possible, six feet social distancing when playing
- The use of playground equipment may be limited to follow health and safety guidelines

### **Secondary Breaks at the end of lunch:**

At times during lunch, weather permitting, students may go to a designated outdoor area while maintaining social distance. Students are able to remove their masks while outdoors, but must maintain 6 foot distance.

Students are expected to follow the school rules and cooperate when instructed and directed

- Students are expected to adhere to all procedures so the school can follow the guidelines for health and safety
- Students must maintain, as much as reasonably possible, six feet social distancing when playing
- Students who are unable to meet break expectations will not be permitted outside

### **What plans are in place to address bathrooms?**

The number of students who are out of class at any one time should be limited. If students are out of the classroom for more than 15-minutes, their name and location must be logged for contact line tracing.

Individuals with accommodation plans will continue to receive their accommodations.

A single restroom will be identified, where possible, for isolation room use. If a restroom is used by a student in isolation with COVID-like symptoms, it will be used by only that student and closed for cleaning following use.

Elementary: Grade levels will use the bathrooms they are normally assigned to and cleaning and disinfection procedures for high traffic areas will be maintained. Staff will carry a container of student masks with them to the playground and hand masks to students needing to enter the building.

Secondary: Maximum bathroom capacity will be posted outside the bathrooms. Students will self-manage their social distancing in the bathroom, waiting outside when needed. Students should sign in and out of the classroom, when leaving during a class period.

### **How will students safely transition between locations in each building?**

Principals will work with their staff to establish social distance markers in hallways and high traffic areas outside of the buildings. Teachers will instruct students on proper procedures and students will be monitored by staff during transitions.

### **Will students be provided free breakfast and lunch?**

Yes. During the 2021-2022 school year, all students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast and lunch will be served onsite in schools to all students who want it. It is still important that families apply for free or reduced lunch. This information is used to provide fee waivers and help qualify the district for vital federal and state funds to serve students.

Please find the Free and Reduced Lunch [Application here](#).

Accommodations for special dietary needs require medical documentation on file from a health care provider. Please contact the FSD Food Services Department or your building school nurse for assistance.

### **Meal procedures**

Students with dietary needs will have their name placed on the meal pack that is packaged by food services specific for that student's need.

All students will face forward while eating meals.

Elementary: All students will eat snacks and lunch in their designated space:

- All students and staff wash (preferred) or sanitize their hands before and after eating snack or lunch
- Students sit in their designated spot or lunch. This spot should be at least six feet distance from each other to the greatest extent possible
- Snack and lunch is supervised
- Staff use the provided cloth with soap and water to thoroughly clean the tables after students have eaten

Secondary: Students will eat in a designated breakfast and lunch location. FHS will be a closed campus.

- All students and staff wash (preferred) or sanitize their hands before and after eating snack or lunch
- Students will be seated 6' apart to the greatest extent possible
- Students will maintain 6' apart in the lunch line to the greatest extent possible

### **What is the guidance for sporting activities?**

Sporting activities must follow the requirements listed below. In the following information, universal masking means that face coverings are required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

Physical Education (PE) classes are curricular classes and are not considered sporting activities. Students and staff must all wear masks indoors during PE classes. Masks are not required outdoors.

The use of cohorts within the sports teams limits the potential for team-wide transmission in the event of an exposure or outbreak and should be considered for practices, warm-ups, and when traveling.

Travel trips must follow CDC's order for all riders and drivers to wear a mask on buses or other public transportation, regardless of vaccination status. Seat cohorts together on the bus and separate the cohorts by at least 3 feet to the degree possible. Increase ventilation by opening windows as weather permits.

Athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel should maintain at least 6 feet to the degree possible when not playing (e.g., on the bench, in the dugout, on the sideline, in locker rooms and other similar situations). Please also refer to DOH's Guidance for Sporting Activities for additional information.

### **Mask Requirements for Sporting Activities**

- Universal masking is required by all athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and support personnel when in weight rooms, regardless of vaccination status. Weight rooms are high-risk indoor settings. They are often poorly ventilated, crowded and used by athletes from sports of multiple contact levels, as well as PE students. Practice physical distancing to the degree possible.
- Masks are not required for athletes while competing in low-contact or moderate contact sports indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing. Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in DOH's Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities.
- Masks are not required for fully vaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports. Masks are not required for unvaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports if they participate in screening testing. Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing. Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in [DOH's Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities](#).
  - o Indoor basketball, wrestling, and water polo are high-contact sports and require screening testing of unvaccinated individuals in order to participate. See the section on Screening Testing for Sporting Activities below.
  - o Cheer is a high aerosol-generating activity. Fully vaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing, performing or competing. Unvaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing, performing or competing if they participate in screening testing. Universal 15 masking of cheerleaders is required indoors when not practicing, performing or competing.
  - o High contact indoor athletes who are engaging in practices off-season must either:
    - Practice universal masking at all times, regardless of vaccination status; or
    - Initiate the screening testing protocol of unvaccinated athletes to allow the removal of masks by all athletes, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while practicing. Masks must be worn at all other times when not practicing, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are not required for outdoor sports of any contact level but are recommended in settings where unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and/or support personnel are in close proximity, such as standing on the sidelines, in a huddle, or sitting in a dugout.
- All coaches, athletic trainers, and other support personnel involved with sporting activities must wear face coverings indoors in K-12 settings, regardless of vaccination status.

- Referees who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear face coverings indoors when actively officiating and running (e.g., basketball). When they are not running, masks are required (e.g., talking with coaches, between quarters). Unvaccinated referees must wear face coverings at all times when they are officiating, unless they participate in screening testing.
- Masking is required universally for all spectators attending indoor K-12 sporting activities, regardless of vaccination status. Audience members should be seated in “family units” and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart.

### **Screening Testing for Sporting Activities**

- Screening testing is required for all unvaccinated athletes in high contact indoor sports (basketball, wrestling). Fully vaccinated athletes do not have to participate in screening testing.

Screening testing must be performed twice weekly using a molecular or antigen test. A rapid antigen test should be performed on all unvaccinated athletes within 24 hours of the competition. In a multi-day event, testing should occur before each competition. The second test during the week should be performed 3-4 days prior to or after the competition and may be a molecular or antigen test. If a molecular test is performed, the athlete does not need to isolate while awaiting screening test results unless they are exhibiting symptoms.

- Unvaccinated athletes participating in indoor low or moderate contact sports are recommended, but not required, to participate in screening testing once or twice weekly. This is especially important when community transmission is substantial or high. Please see the [CDC's matrix \(Table 1\)](#) for definitions of the levels of community transmission.
- Any athlete with a positive test must be excluded from the event and removed from the venue. See Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID-19 for more information. Positive test results must be reported to the local health jurisdiction as outlined in the Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health section. Contact tracing should be performed per guidance above. The team should work with local public health and district COVID lead to determine how to approach isolation, quarantine, and further testing.
- Unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should quarantine immediately, even if they recently had a negative test.
- Fully vaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive. If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
- All point of care test results should be reported to the DOH in accordance with guidance available at the Reporting COVID-19 Test Results for Point-of-Care Testing Facilities site.

### **What is the guidance for performing arts?**

#### **Performing Arts Classes:**

Many students in performing arts engage in activities that are high aerosol-generating and increase the risk for COVID-19 transmission. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure all students have access to their chosen performing arts course. Face coverings/masks are not required when outdoors. Distancing of



at least 3 feet is also recommended outdoors. When indoors, universal masking of all students and faculty is required.

- Universal masking with appropriate material – MERV13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material – is required by all students and staff in performing arts classes and while participating in performing arts activities. Masking with MERV13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material is the best way of reducing aerosols from circulating in indoor spaces.
- Aerosol-producing musicians, e.g., singers, woodwinds and brass, speech/debate, and theater performers are required to wear appropriate masks/face coverings and/or use appropriate bell covers while performing. Woodwinds and brass performers may remove their face coverings/masks when performing on their instrument and must replace their face covering/mask during non-performance time. Face coverings/masks with slits are recommended but not required.
- Universal masking with appropriate material – MERV13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material – is required in general music and elementary classrooms when singing is performed. Teachers should provide students with singers’ masks to replace their cloth masks in these settings. When not singing, students should wear cloth masks as required in other classrooms. 17
- Bell covers with appropriate material – MERV 13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material – are required for brass and woodwind instruments when indoors. Bell covers are recommended when playing outdoors but not required.
- Practice good hygiene collecting water condensation from brass instruments. Consider using “puppy pads” for students to empty spit valves rather than emptying directly on the floor.
- Ensure that all students have access to their chosen performing arts course. Space constraints should not limit access to these classes. Distancing should be at least 3 feet, if possible, and more if space permits. Distancing of at least 3 feet is also recommended outdoors.
- Reduce shared equipment to the degree possible. Have students use hand sanitizer before using shared equipment like music stands. If hand sanitizer is readily available and used often, shared equipment does not need to be sanitized between each group; regular daily cleaning is sufficient. For shared instruments, students should have their own mouthpieces. Allow the instrument to sit for 24 hours between uses.
- Maximize ventilation of the space as much as possible. If a space is smaller and/or not well-ventilated, use portable HEPA air cleaners to supplement. See also Ventilation above for best practices to allow appropriate time for air change.

### **What about Extracurricular Performing Arts Performances and Activities?**

Students, teachers, and support staff must follow all requirements within this document when participating in school-sponsored performing arts activities and performances, even if not in a K-12 classroom setting.

#### **Performances**

- For performances, audience members should be seated in “family units” and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart. All audience members must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- Universal masking is required during performances for participants, including appropriate face coverings and bell covers on woodwind and brass instruments.

#### **Travel for Performing Arts**

- Travel trips must follow CDC’s order for all riders and drivers to wear a mask on buses or other public transportation, regardless of vaccination status. Seat cohorts together on the bus and separate the cohorts by at least 3 feet to the degree possible. Increase ventilation by opening windows as weather permits.

#### Testing Requirements for Performing Arts

- Any participant with a positive test must be excluded from the event and removed from the venue. See [Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID-19](#) for more information. Positive test results must be reported to the local health jurisdiction. Contact tracing should be performed per guidance in the What to Do if Someone is a Close Contact of Someone with COVID-19 section. The performing arts group should work with local public health and district COVID Lead to determine how to approach isolation, quarantine, and 18 further testing.
- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or other support personnel identified as close contacts should quarantine immediately, even if they recently had a negative test.
- Fully vaccinated students, teachers, or other support personnel identified as close contacts should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive. If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
- All point of care test results should be reported to the DOH in accordance with guidance available at the Reporting COVID-19 Test Results for Point-of-Care Testing Facilities site.

#### **What about other Extracurricular Activities (Clubs, Interest Groups, STEM Fairs, Field Trips, etc.)?**

Students, teachers, and support staff must follow all requirements within this document when participating in school-sponsored activities, contests, shows, etc., even if not in a K-12 classroom setting.

#### **Other Extracurricular Activities**

- Universal masking of all students, staff, and volunteers is required indoors. Face coverings or masks are not required outdoors but are recommended in settings where students and attendees will be in sustained close proximity or if there is potential for crowding.
- Physical distancing of at least three feet is required indoors to the degree possible.
- For shows, exhibits etc., visitors or audience members should be seated or travel through exhibits in “family units” and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart. All students, audience members, judges, or other guests must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- Any activity involving Performing Arts (e.g., talent show, international night, etc.) or Sports should follow the guidance provided in those sections.

#### **Travel for Other Extracurricular Activities**

- Travel trips must follow CDC’s order for all riders and drivers to wear a mask on buses or other public transportation, regardless of vaccination status. Seat cohorts together on the bus and separate the cohorts by at least 3 feet to the degree possible. Increase ventilation by opening windows as weather permits.
- Universal masking is required indoors. Masks are recommended for crowded outdoor events, such as festivals

