

**Subject:** New COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2022

**August 26, 2022**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Washington state updated its [COVID-19 school and child care guidance](#) on August 5, 2022. Following these safety measures reduces the spread of COVID-19. This letter explains how the updated guidance impacts your family and the community.

- Children and staff who [show symptoms of COVID-19 are required to stay home](#). They should get tested for COVID-19.
- Children under 2 years are not approved for at-home COVID-19 test kits. In this situation, a parent/guardian will need to obtain testing at a test site or health care provider. See page 12.
- Children and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for 5 days. If symptoms improve and they have had no fever for the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, children and staff can come back to child care. See page 2.
- Children or staff returning from 5 days of isolation should wear a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10. Children and staff are also encouraged to test before returning to child care. See page 6.
- Children who test positive after 5 days of isolation must isolate for the full 10 days. See page 6.
- Child cares must inform families and staff when there are cases or outbreaks in the facility. Child cares are no longer required to directly notify high risk children or staff. See page 3 **We will communicate outbreaks to families by newsletter.**

Households are encouraged to test as needed at home. In Washington state, you can receive free self-tests from the [Say Yes! COVID Test program](#). Most insurance covers the costs of up to 8 self-tests per individual per month.

[COVID-19 vaccinations](#) remain the best protection for everyone against hospitalization and severe disease from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is now [available for children 6 months and older](#). Booster doses are also available for children 5 years and older. You are encouraged to vaccinate your children if they are eligible, in consultation with your health care provider.

You can reach us at **360-875-5615 ex. 2\_** for help or more information. We look forward to creating a safe and healthy space for children.

Sincerely,  
Kresta Byington, Elementary Principal

