

Subject Line: New COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

I am writing to share new information from the State Department of Health about [COVID-19 health and safety guidance for schools this fall](#). Following these safety measures reduces the spread of COVID-19. This letter explains how the updated guidance impacts your family and the community.

Health and safety requirements for this fall:

- Students and staff who [show symptoms of COVID-19 are required to stay home](#), and should get tested for COVID-19. should get tested for COVID-19.
- Students 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, students and staff can come back to school and are encouraged to test before returning.
- It is **recommended** that students and staff returning to school after their 5 days of isolation:
 - wear a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10, and
 - remain masked for sports and other extracurricular activities on days 6 to 10.
- Students and staff who test positive after 5 days of isolation must stay at home [for the full 10-day isolation period](#).
- Schools must inform students, families, and staff when there are cases or outbreaks in school.

These requirements are in place for all public and private K-12 schools and child care facilities in Washington state. Schools and child care facilities are required by state law to follow these guidelines.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, **Shaw Island School District** offers free COVID-19 testing for staff and students at school. Contact the office for more information.

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. **This is expected to be a strong year for the flu. Please keep your children home if they present flu/cold/COVID symptoms!**

We look forward to creating safe and healthy spaces for our students when they return this fall.

Sincerely,

Kari McVeigh