

Dear QVSD Parents,

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.

Health and safety requirements for this fall:

- Students and staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 are required to stay home, and should test for COVID-19.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for five days and inform your school. If symptoms improve after five days with no fever for the past 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medications) students and staff can come back to school.
- The following is required of students and staff with a positive test and returning to school after their five days of isolation:
 1. wear a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10, and
 2. remain masked for sports and other extracurricular activities on days 6 to 10.

School districts must inform students, families, and staff about cases or outbreaks (more than two positive cases in one specific location) in school. We will communicate cases and outbreaks each Friday on our district's website through the COVID-19 data dashboard.

Individual letters for exposure or positive cases are no longer required. Our state's requirement is still in place for school employees and volunteers to be fully vaccinated to protect against COVID-19 or have obtained a medical or religious exemption.

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, QVSD offers free COVID-19 testing for staff and students who experience symptoms while at school. With expanded resources for at-home testing, staff and students who are experiencing symptoms need to test at home outside of school hours.

If you need a COVID test or have any questions, contact your principal or school nurse for more details.

We look forward to creating safe and healthy spaces for our students returning this fall. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,