



July 23, 2020

Clark County school administrators and health staff,

Clark County Public Health recognizes that the COVID-19 guidance for school reopening is broad and extensive. Our approach to COVID-19 management in schools reflects the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance & Resources issued by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources>). This guidance aligns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Considerations for Schools (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>). We recommend you utilize this guidance to the extent possible, understanding that whether and how to implement these considerations may be unique to each school or district. Implementation should be guided by what is practical, safe, and tailored to the needs of each community.

The role of Clark County Public Health in school-related outbreaks and exposures is to investigate and mitigate the spread of disease. For every confirmed case, we will at minimum evaluate whether the case was at school during their contagious period. If the answer is "yes," we will expand our investigation, which will likely involve the school and/or district. Our investigation process and response will differ based on many factors, such as physical distancing, hygienic practices, the timeline of illness, and number people involved (extent of possible spread).

While developing your back-to-school plan, please consider the factors below that Clark County Public Health will evaluate when a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19.

- COVID-19 school response plan for the specific site involved in the investigation, as well as screening logs, if implemented
- Bus plans (if the case is accessing the bus)
- Cleaning schedules
- Physical distancing measures
- Face covering/mask use
- Hand washing breaks
- Use and cleaning of community settings, such as bathrooms
- Traffic flow for students moving through buildings, bathrooms, etc.
- Use and cleaning practices of eating areas
- Lunch and recess schedules
- Student access to shared water fountains
- Recess practices



- All students and staff the case interacted with during the time in which they may have been contagious (*These people will likely be identified as close contacts.*)
- Any other students or staff with COVID-19 symptoms

Please note that anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 will be asked to go into isolation (timing is dependent on symptoms, but this will be a minimum of 10 days). Those identified by Public Health as close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the confirmed case. Clark County Public Health will provide return to work/school letters for individuals who are quarantined or isolated for COVID-19.

Here are some definitions of terms our staff may use when investigating a COVID-19 case:

- **Close contact:** For exposure to both asymptomatic (no symptoms) and symptomatic COVID-19 cases, a close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the infected individual is isolated.
- **Outbreak:**
 - Two or more confirmed or probable cases with at least one case confirmed **AND**
 - At least two cases have symptom onsets within 14 days of each other **AND**
 - Plausible epidemiological evidence of virus transmission in a shared location (e.g., workplace, congregate setting, event)
- **Isolation:** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- **Quarantine:** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

We hope this provides you with insight that you can use to inform your approach to the 2020-21 school year. You can find additional resources and the latest information on the local COVID-19 response, on the Clark County Public Health website, www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus.

Please reach out to us if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Clark County Public Health COVID-19 response team

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