

FAQ for Families - COVID-19

I got an email stating that an individual in my student's school is positive for COVID-19, was my student exposed? Krissa Cramer, Arlington School District Nurse and/or the health team will personally let you know if your student is considered a Close Contact to a COVID-19 positive individual. You will receive a personal phone call. If you receive an email as an FYI that there was a positive individual in your student's building, your student **has not** been determined a close contact.

I think that I should be notified where the positive individual in the building was. Can I have that information? We are trying very hard to protect staff and student privacy and we must be very careful how much information we are giving out. We also have very limited staff and students on campus, so if we start giving information on grade level, A/B schedule, staff vs student etc, HIPPA violations become a real concern.

How long do staff/students stay out of school/work if positive? 10 days if an individual is positive. If an individual is considered a close contact, 14 days. If an individual is a close contact of a positive family member, 10 days (infectious period) + 14 days (incubation period) = 24 days. *This is subject to change based on recommendations from the Snohomish County Health Department.

If another student tests positive in the classroom, will my student have to quarantine? It is possible. We will work closely with the Snohomish Health Department (SHD) to quickly determine and notify any individuals that SHD considers to be a close contact.

What is a close contact? An individual is considered to be a close contact if they were within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for > 15 minutes in a 24 hour period.

What is a COVID-19 "outbreak"? An outbreak is considered to be 2 or more lab-confirmed cases from different families within a two-week time frame.

Our numbers are going up. What will it take to shut schools down again? The difference between last spring and now is that the majority of individuals who were positive were higher in age. This age group is much more likely to rely on in-patient hospital services. The fear was that our local hospitals would not have the capacity or the staffing to treat all COVID-19 positive cases requiring hospital services last spring, therefore, our school districts were closed in response to "flattening the curve". Now, the age groups who are positive for COVID-19 are changing. The largest COVID positive age group today is the 20-59-year-olds making up a large majority of the cases. This age group has been found to be less likely to require in-patient hospitalization, however, our local health departments are watching these metrics carefully.

What would it take to close Arlington schools:

- The Governor orders schools to close again
- The Snohomish County Health Department advises our schools to be closed

- Dr. Sweeting and the School Board see increased trends in positive cases in our specific district and/or staffing concerns requiring closing our schools

Why does it feel like the guidelines are changing constantly? With new data and information being collected with this new virus, guidelines are changing. We work very hard staying up to date with the latest information and guidelines pertinent to schools and this virus.

If my student has symptoms, what should I do? You should keep your student home from school. You should notify the school attendance office. You should contact your healthcare provider and communicate a safe return to school plan with your school building nurse.

Where do we get tested?

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/TestingforCOVID19/TestingLocations>

How much is a COVID-19 test? It is free to get a COVID-19 test through many drive-thru sites to the individual, meaning it is not applied to your deductible and there is no co-pay. Know that if you see a medical provider, you most likely will get an office visit charge.

What happens if a student or staff member develops symptoms while at school? Each building has a Care Room where students showing COVID-19 symptoms can be isolated until they are picked up from school. They are sent home with strict guidelines developed by the Washington State Health Department that must be followed in order to return.

What is the protocol to return to school after my student has symptoms?

See Return to School Guidance

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-287-COVID-19SymptomEv alMgmtFlowChart.pdf>

Are students and staff really wearing masks? Yes. WA State Health Department, Labor and Industries, and OSPI guidance state that all individuals, unless working alone, must wear a facial covering while inside the building unless they are eating. There are rare circumstances where an individual, because of a diagnosed health condition, cannot wear a mask and alternative facial coverings are utilized.

How often are you cleaning student bathrooms and other frequently touched surfaces?

Bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected every day. High Touch surfaces are cleaned multiple times throughout the day.