

Dec. 1, 2020

### *A Message from the COVID Safety Team*

Dear staff,

We will be sharing regular updates as part of our ongoing work to keep you informed about COVID-19 safety practices and protocols. Each update will include the latest information from local and regional agencies as well as stories and resources within our schools and district.

#### **Washington State Updates**

[COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#) advises against non-essential travel and recommends a 14-day [self-quarantine](#) for anyone arriving to Washington from another state, including Washington residents.

[COVID-19 State-Wide Restrictions](#) prohibits indoor social gatherings with people from outside your household and limits in-person services and activities. Limiting in-person activities does not apply to K-12 education and child care.

[Learn how to use Washington Exposure Notification](#) (WA Notify). This is a new tool that works through a smartphone to alert users if they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is completely private and doesn't know or track who you are or where you go.

#### **Whatcom County Data and Updates**

Check out the [Whatcom County Health Department Data Dashboard for regularly updated local COVID-19 data](#).

Whatcom County has an increasing trajectory of confirmed COVID-19 cases. November increases were mostly linked to Halloween parties, small gatherings and some workplace spread in isolated incidents. Significant transmission is not occurring in schools.

**Starting Dec. 1, [Whatcom County's drive-through testing location is](#)** NW Washington Fair & Events Center at 1775 Front St. in Lynden.

#### **Do you know where to find information related to COVID-19 for Bellingham Public Schools?**

[Human Resources Information Related to COVID-19](#): Now is a great time for a refresh for staff on this important content. There is a lot of information packed into this page for you to dive into!

You will find:

- [NEW Staff Handbook for COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines](#)
- [Staff FAQ](#) – Don't see a question you have listed here? Ask your supervisor to pass them on and let's keep updating for everyone to have answers.

- [Back to Building Requirements](#) – Do you just need a reminder on the basics that help keep us all safe and healthy? Masks, physical distance, staying home when sick and hand washing may seem small, but are quite powerful as we take care of each other.

We are working to add more resources to this page so be on the lookout on the webpage and in COVID Safety Team newsletters to come.

**Who is receiving in-person instruction in our schools?**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Beginning date</b>	<b>Schools</b>
Community partner child care	spring	select elementary schools
Connections, in partnership with Vamos and Wild Whatcom	summer	Kulshan
YMCA Youth Institute	summer	Options
GRADS	September	Squalicum, Options, Sehome
HS internet cafe	Oct. 15	all high schools
HS athletics, outside	Oct. 25	Bellingham, Sehome, Squalicum
K8 outdoor ed connections	Oct. 26	Kulshan, Shuksan
Kindergarten, primary Life Skills and BRIDGES	Nov. 2	all elementary schools
Frist grade, Int. Life Skills and BRIDGES, preschool	Nov. 12	all elementary schools
Life Skills, BRIDGES	Nov. 16	all middle schools
Life Skills, BRIDGES, Community Transitions	Nov. 23	all high schools








We'll be back next week for more updates, a weekly interview with BPS staff and a trivia question!

[How much does wearing a cloth mask reduce the spread of COVID-19?](#)



## Wear a cloth face covering or mask to reduce the spread of COVID-19

You may have the virus *even if you don't have symptoms*.  
Protect yourself and others by wearing a cloth face covering or mask.

person with COVID-19	person without COVID-19	chance of spreading COVID-19	
	neither person wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		<b>very high</b>
	only healthy person wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		<b>high</b>
	only person with COVID-19 wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		<b>medium</b>
	both wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		<b>low</b>
	both wearing face covering + at least 6 feet apart		<b>very low</b>
	staying home		<b>virtually none</b>

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