

Covid-19 District Safety Team Meeting

February 22, 2021

Present: Rebecca Sauter, Jeff Tetrick, Shelly Donahue, Jenny Lawrence, Jessica Sankey, JoAn Steier, Lisa Peterson, Michael Haberman, Micah Smith, Jonah Stinson, Bob Kuel, Jackie Brawley, Jenny Lawrence, Simone Sangster, Denise Suess, Miguel Perez, Lisa Gilchrist, Meagan Dawson, Isabel Meeker

Review new activities:

6th grade

Some teachers were concerned about time required to use the restroom and staggering for lining up for lunch.

Parents thought they had to go to BVL if they wanted to stay remote. This is not true; they can attend remote learning with their current teachers.

Parents have said that the FRC has said that they can switch cohorts. Isabel clarified that that is not true.

K-3 is concerned about spacing once 4th & 5th grades come in person.

Special program proposal:

Culinary arts class: There is an ask for plexiglass in the culinary arts spaces. This is to enable students to sample their food in the classroom.

Sehome has an industrial hood to make enough air move through those spaces.

Bob, Jonah and Jeff will work together for the specifics on this situation.

New/Old Items

Gaiter language:

Gaiters are not allowed in a school setting as they are not the best layer of protection.

They are okay for some sports.

We need to communicate this with all levels of schools.

Mask protocols:

Valve masks are not allowed unless covered by a procedural mask.

Parents are asking for a mask policy. We don't have a policy but have procedures.

Students wear masks all day.

We take steps on an individual basis to teach a student to wear a mask.

Some students who cannot wear a mask due to a medical reason.

Meals, language, and flexibility

No eating or drinking in the classroom at Middle and High schools. Masks are worn in the classroom.

However, some schools are eating in classrooms while using a cohort model in Elementary school.

Six feet social distancing was established without the use of masks, so eating might be okay if social distancing guidelines are observed.

Elementary schools are eating in classrooms.

Formalize District & Site Safety Teams and post membership on website.

<https://bellingshamschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/District-and-School-COVID-safety-teams.Feb2021.pdf>

What:

The District maintains COVID teams at each school building and a District COVID team. The District COVID team stays current with shared understandings of requirements and guidance, develops systems to ensure compliance with requirements and guidance, supports implementation of systems and assesses efficacy of systems. The school site COVID teams regularly review COVID-19 safety requirements; ensure implementation of requirements, screening and tracking systems, physical distancing systems and PPE supplies; and communicate requirements with school leadership teams and school staff. Each building team includes at least one administrator, a school nurse and at least one other building staff member.

Purpose:

The COVID teams evolved to respond to [Employer Health & Safety Requirements for School Scenarios](#) (OSPI, L&I & DOH guidance updated Jan 28, 2021) excerpted below:

“As described in the Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide, school districts, like all businesses, have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy worksite in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. An employer’s obligations include developing an Accident Prevention Plan (APP), including a Job Hazard Analysis that also includes worker protections from COVID-19, a known workplace hazard.

A site-specific COVID-19 supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each school and other worksite to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.”

District COVID Team Role & Responsibilities:

Reviews new guidance from external sources to evaluate district compliance.

Evaluates proposal from schools and/or staff to recommend implementation of activities with COVID-19 protocols.

Recommends proposals to superintendent and executive team for implementation with COVID 19 safety protocols.

School Site COVID Team Role & Responsibilities

Regularly review COVID-19 safety requirements

Ensure implementation of requirements: screening and tracking systems; physical distancing systems; PPE supplies

Communicate requirements with school leadership team and school staff

Recommend COVID—19 safety team report as key element for all building Leadership meetings

All staff should direct questions about COVID-19 safety to their site safety team first

Communication structure:

District COVID Team meets weekly, Mon 3-4 pm, to review proposals and assess implementation plans for new guidance.

Meeting notes posted on District website weekly

Site COVID teams meet weekly at convenience of building schedule.

COVID 19 Communications: pros, cons, how can we improve?

COVID 19 Testing & Vaccines

Vaccine communication went out on Sunday.

Opportunity for new vaccine clinic this week.

Lifeskills, preschool and bridges staff are often exposed to bodily fluids. It would be appreciated if we could advocate for those staff members to be vaccinated.