

COVID-19 Health & Safety Team

March 1, 2021

Present: Shelly Donahue, Jeff Tetrick, Jonah Stinson, Lisa Peterson, Micah Smith, Jenny Lawrence, Jessica Sankey, JoAn Steiner, Miguel Perez, Isabel Meaker, Simone Sangster, Jacqueline Brawley, Lisa Gilchrist, Denise Suess, Michael Haberman, Nyla Thursday, Angie Ritchey

Vaccination Update:

Vaccination providers will not provide vaccines outside of the eligibility that the state determines. Any vaccinations outside of that is an anomaly.

We have been able to identify staff working in screening rooms, some special ed staff who provide health services and behavioral health support staff as qualifying for COVID vaccines.

We are working with HR to create a list of staff who are already vaccinated and to identify staff who are still interested in receiving the vaccine so we can continue to connect them with available vaccines when eligible.

Gaiters:

Gaiters are allowed per the Whatcom County Health Department website which hasn't been updated since September 2020

WIAA says "per the DOH, cloth masks are recommended. Gaiters are an approved mask for use, but they are not preferred." Feb 17, 2021

CDC puts gaiters under "Special Considerations" and says if you are going to wear a gaiter it needs to be multi-layered. (Feb 2021)

Our stance:

In our district the expectation is that we wear masks. There are exceptions: in some sports (football), gaiters are allowed. Some students or staff may need to work with their principal or supervisor for an accommodation on a case-by-case basis.

The sentence below will be added to the website.

"We expect that students and staff not wear gaiters, bandanas, or valve masks due to CDC recommendations. If a student or staff member is wearing one of the above, we will provide them with a mask to change into. If a student or staff member needs an accommodation they should work with their principal or supervisor individually."

Wild Whatcom:

Lifeskills staff are requesting an approval from this team to move forward with the collaboration with Wild Whatcom.

The group agreed to the collaboration with Wild Whatcom. Mike Haberman will move forward with implementation.

High School Health attestation process:

The school nurses and high school administrators have agreed on the following items to be included in the attestation process. Temperature checks will not be included.

- Quarterly attestation for families
- Daily attestations from student

Travel advisory: communication for staff, students and families:

Washington State Governor Inslee has recommended that people not travel outside of the state. If people travel out of state, they are asked to self-quarantine.

For families we ask that they follow this guidance.

For staff, if it is not possible to quarantine, please arrange to get a COVID test 3-5 days upon return.

Other steps are to be extra attentive to all our standard protocols: do not come to work/school if symptomatic, wear masks that fit well, maintain physical distance, check in/check out.

We will ask staff to follow the state travel advisory if possible.

Mass capacity signs:

The BEA has requested that we post mass capacity signage on all rooms in the school district. Nyla is providing a worksheet with instructions for schools to print and post the signs on each classroom.

There is an assumed 20% non-usable space for furniture in each classroom. If there is a room that seems incorrect people are encouraged to reach out to Nyla for help.

Building Advocacy Team BAT:

The Building Advocacy Team, BAT is a suggested three to four people per site problem solve issues that come up in regards to COVID. This will help problem solve at the building level before escalating to the district level.

School photos for middle schools:

Some schools have scheduled school photos and others have not. The group decided to provide the opportunity to all schools not just the few that have scheduled already.

Visitors:

We are at the end of the 2-week pilot to test in-person volunteers with the new safety protocols and both schools have weighed in with their feedback. The new in-person policy language has been vetted by communications and is ready to distribute district wide. Safety team recommends pausing on allowing volunteers into the buildings for a short period of time to allow for schools to get open and running before volunteers join. The group suggested after spring break to be good timing.