

# COVID Health and Safety Team

11.23.2020

## COVID Health & Safety Team Notes

### 1) Handbook update: Jackie

- a. Handbook available on webpage and Jackie will send to principals to remind them to make it their own for their own schools.

### 2) PPE ordering update: Jonah

- a. *Notes: EDUCATE but do not limit what is available.*
- b. It is time to reorder PPE, and Jonah is on point for working with Angie to develop an ongoing inventory and ordering system, which means monitoring the burn rate and navigating the L&I requirements and availability of PPE.
- c. This means we need to recalibrate what we are using so we can order appropriately going forward.
- d. Jonah using this meeting as an opportunity to connect with the health & safety team to plan a recalibration about PPE use, and to assess what kind of education/information is important for our staff to have to make good decisions about PPE for themselves.
  - o We have guidance (“Which Mask for the Task”) and need to be consistent about what we give staff to wear.
- e. Next steps are for Jonah to update principals, so we are consistent in what we give staff as well as the language/support/guidance we give them.
  - o After principals Jonah will update nurses
    - Jonah & Jessica will ask nurses to prepare consistent education for staff members about the PPE they are expected to wear & what is available.

### 3) Sub hiring plan:

- a. If someone has put in an absence, a sub who has already completed the COVID training need to able to access open jobs. Subs get trained with COVID safety, provide list of individuals who have completed the training to buildings, and then only those people can see absences when they are entered. Challenge to manage subs one-by-one or manually; HR recommends relying on AESOP system to hire subs.

### 4) Proposals: Jessica

- a. Conversation: Dr. Stern’s letter recommends no new MS & HS in-person school. The safety team reviewed 4 proposals for HS asynchronous in-person activities. The team does not recommend moving forward with choir (acknowledge that there are good models of in-person choir in the US but given how few activities we have in-person, the team felt this invited too much risk for an early in-person asynchronous activity). The other three proposals were recommended for greenlight from a safety perspective. However, given Dr. Stern’s letter it seems prudent to wait to begin new in-person activities. Jeff Tetrick points out that some activities were moved forward before the letter just because of timing, not because they are safe. Nonetheless, the safety team recommends not beginning any new in-person learning activities currently.

### b. 5 proposals

	Safety team recommendation from COVID lens:	
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BHS Choir	Safety team NO	
BHS Orchestra	Safety team YES	
CTE shop: asynchronous small group	Safety team YES	All high schools
SHS Library	Safety team YES for kids already on site for Internet Café; Safety team NO for new students coming in	

- c. Guidelines for crossing cohorts: feedback from last week? *No additional input.* Where to publish? *Jessica & Jackie working on this: possibly on HR webpage; possibly on COVID front page.*

**5) Clarification of steps in the case of Covid symptoms: Shelly**

- a. Staff or students with symptoms are asked not to come to school. If they are on site, the COVID site team works to arrange travel home. Once home, they are asked not to return for 10 days and 24 hours after symptoms have resolved OR to return with a negative COVID test and 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- b. Nurses continue to refine language to make it as clear and consistent as possible, and welcome opportunities to share their understanding with colleagues, students and families.

**6) Data dashboard—Jessica**

- a. Jessica & Jackie to work with the health department to develop a proactive way to communicate about confirmed cases with families.

**\*From Whatcom County Health Department:**

Given the likely revision of the COVID-19 Activity Level thresholds and responses, and the evidence for limited transmission of COVID-19 within schools and by younger children, I recommend that in response to the increase in community transmission rates within Whatcom County that **school districts pause in their plans for expanding in-person instruction for middle and high school students,** with the exception of special needs students and struggling students who are unable to engage in remote learning. Returning elementary school students to in-person instruction may continue to be phased in. Transmission of virus by the older students is similar to adults and their class schedules are not conducive to limiting the number of other students and teachers with which they have contact. Elementary school students can be grouped in small cohorts and limit their number of staff and student contacts, and they are less efficient in transmitting infection than older children and adults.

To avoid disruption of school operations and families, **those middle and high schools that have already opened in-person instruction or have made plans to do so this week do not have to return to remote instruction at this time.**