

Health and safety during the 2022-23 school year

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, so do the ways that we work to keep students and staff members safe at school. Following the latest guidance from public health officials, our health and safety practices will remain similar to our practices at the end of last school year.

Here are the top things to know:

- **Masks and face coverings:** May be recommended during outbreaks, but in most cases they are optional. People may continue wearing masks or face coverings if they would like to do so. We will respect everyone's choice.
- **Symptoms and testing:** Students and staff members who have symptoms are required to stay home, or will be sent home, and should get tested and/or see a health care provider.
 - Regardless of their vaccination status, any student or staff member who reports or has COVID-19-like symptoms at school or work is required to be isolated from others, sent home and tested as soon as possible.
 - While waiting to leave, the person with symptoms is required to be isolated and wear a face mask if they are 2 years of age or older and not exempted from wearing a mask.
 - [Your child may be tested at school with consent](#), or families have the option to get free test kits at school and test at home. Testing will no longer be offered at the Jim Parsley Community Center.
- **Return to school after a positive test:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 are required to stay at home for at least five days.
 - Repeating initial tests does not change this requirement.
 - People returning from isolation are recommended to wear a mask or face covering from days 6 to 10. They also are encouraged to test before returning to school.
 - If the person continues to test positive after day 5, they must isolate for the full 10 days.
- **Notification of cases:**
 - An email notification will be sent to all VPS staff members and posted to a school's website generally within one business day of a case being reported to the COVID response team.
 - Notifications will be sent when a staff member or student tests positive or is presumed positive for COVID-19 and the individual was in a VPS building or on a VPS bus 48 hours before they began showing symptoms.
 - The [data dashboard showing all cases in the district](#) is updated weekly.
- **Vaccination requirement:** Washington Gov. Jay Inslee continues to require all employees, volunteers and indoor contractors in educational settings to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a medical or religious exemption.
 - COVID-19 vaccination is not required for student enrollment during the 2022-23 school year.

- **Cleaning and ventilation:** We will continue cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. The district will continue to monitor and maintain HVAC systems to ensure systems are functioning as intended.
- **Sports and after-school activities:** Should follow the same health and safety practices. Masking and testing may be recommended if there is an outbreak.

For more detailed information, please see the [District COVID plan](#).

Thank you for continuing to partner with us to keep students and staff healthy. We are looking forward to seeing your child(ren) on the first day!