



School District of Washington
November 12, 2020

This morning, Governor Parson modified school guidance pertaining to close contact quarantines associated with COVID-19 exposure. In short, quarantines will not apply to individuals wearing proper face coverings. This means that if you are exposed to someone that is found to be positive for COVID-19 and both the positive person and the persons in contact with that person are all wearing face coverings properly, the individuals who are in close contact no longer have to quarantine. This applies to K-12 schools only. This does not mean that we won't have some contact tracing and quarantines that still occur. There are times, such as when eating lunch, competing in athletic events, or in other such situations, where contact tracing must continue and quarantines will still be required.

Students and staff that are currently quarantined will remain quarantined unless otherwise told to return to school by a school nurse or the health department. Each case is different and will require investigation prior to any early return to school decision can be made. Going forward, the school nurses will be e-mailing parents any time their student or a staff person has been near a COVID-19 positive case to provide instructions as to how to self-monitor for symptoms or to quarantine if any of the protocols were not or could not be followed as described above. The health department may follow-up by contacting COVID-19 positive individuals to contract trace under these new guidelines as well. The School District of Washington works in cooperation with our county health departments.

According to the Governor and the professionals included in his press conference today, transmission of COVID-19 may be more rare in schools and face coverings, when used properly, significantly protect individuals from infection. He also urged citizens to wear face coverings, social distance, avoid large crowds and to frequently wash hands in school and beyond. He indicated that quarantines were creating a significant disruption to the educational environment and this was echoed by Commissioner Margie VanDeven from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

For those who may wish to consider Virtual Learning from home as a result of this new guidance for schools, the deadline to register will be extended. All applications must be received by 8 a.m. on Monday, November 23. The registration information can be reviewed by clicking [HERE](#).

The School District of Washington will continue to take the health and safety of our students and staff seriously during these unprecedented times. We will continue to monitor our data as it relates to positive cases (students and staff), quarantines (self and health department directed), substitute fill rates, staffing abilities, and service interruptions. This information will assist the administration and Board of Education in the decision making process. Ongoing analysis of our schedule and calendar will continue as will the face covering requirements for students in grades K-12. As conditions change at the national, state, and local levels, guidelines may continue to change as well. We will continue to communicate as decisions are made or as the situation evolves. We appreciate your understanding and ask that you do all that you can at home to protect your family and loved ones over the coming days and months.

Thank you for your cooperation and take good care,

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