

Hope Lutheran School COVID-19 Information

Updated for 2022-2023

August 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

This year, we are not issuing a pandemic handbook as we continue to shift towards a more typical school year this year, as the pandemic shifts to endemic. Washington state updated its [COVID-19 school and child care guidance](#) on August 5, 2022. Following these safety measures reduces the spread of COVID-19. This letter explains how the updated guidance impacts your family and the community.

Health and Safety Requirements for this Fall:

- Students and staff who [show symptoms of COVID-19 are required to stay home](#), or go home if they are at school, and should get tested for COVID-19.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for **5 days**. If symptoms improve and they have had no fever for the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, students and staff can come back to school with a negative COVID-19 test on day 6 after symptoms develop or a positive test.
- Students and staff returning to school after isolation must wear a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10. Individuals returning to school from isolation should also remain masked for sports and other extracurricular activities.
- **Students and staff who test positive after 5 days of isolation must stay at home for the full 10-day isolation period.**
- Schools must inform students, families, and staff when there are cases or outbreaks in school. We do not plan to identify close contacts, as close contacts no longer need to isolate, but we will communicate directly to the class if someone tests positive, along with sending a more general email to the school community.
- Mask-wearing in general will be optional unless a class or particular group of students experiences an outbreak.

These requirements are in place for all public and private K-12 schools and child care facilities in Washington state. Schools and child care facilities are required by state law to follow these guidelines.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, Hope School offers free COVID-19 testing for staff and students at school. Please reach out to the school office if you would like to pick up tests or have your child tested. Households are encouraged to test as needed at home. In Washington state, you can receive free self-tests from the [Say Yes! COVID Test program](#).

[COVID-19 vaccinations](#) remain the best protection for everyone against hospitalization and severe disease from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is now [available for children 6 months and older](#). Booster doses are also available for children 5 years and older. You are encouraged to vaccinate your children if they are eligible, in consultation with your health care provider.

You can reach us at **(206) 935-8500** or office@hopesattle.org for help or more information. We look forward to creating safe and healthy spaces for our students when they return this fall.

Sincerely, Kristen Okabayashi, Principal