

St. Anne School Covid Protocols: 2022-23--11/1/22 update

Updated Covid Protocols: On Oct. 25, 2022 the Washington State Department of Health published their updated guidance for K-12 schools and Child Care: [Guidance to Prevent and Respond to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools and Child Care](#). (Modifications are underlined and highlighted.)

- **Masking (PPE):** Masking reduces the risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. When the COVID-19 community level is high, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking in schools and child care. We will monitor our community level and communicate to families if we need to temporarily require universal indoor masking. There are many reasons why our students, staff or volunteers may wear a mask in the school setting and those choices will be supported and respected. Please read the guidance for specifics on situations in which masks might be worn.
 - Students are not required to wear masks at this time. Please have your student carry a mask in their backpack since they may be required to wear a mask if they get sick at school with symptoms of COVID.
 - Masks may be required for a specific classroom of students if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in that classroom. (Note modification: The definition of a COVID-19 outbreak has changed to 5 COVID-19 cases within a core group or 20% of students, teachers, or staff within a core group.)
- **COVID-19 Vaccination:** All employees, volunteers and indoor contractors in educational settings are no longer required to be fully vaccinated or have a medical or religious exemption. New parent volunteers no longer need to send a copy of their vaccination record to the school office. Vaccination is the most effective strategy to protect vaccine-eligible children and adults. Students are encouraged but not required to be vaccinated to be in the school building.
- **Covid Exposure Policy:** The Department of Health no longer requires exposed students and staff to quarantine. Here is the protocol if your student has an exposure:
 - Monitor for symptoms
 - Test as soon as possible after exposure and then repeat testing every 24-48 hours through at least the first 5 days after exposure AND
 - Students and staff who spend time indoors with individuals at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure.
- **Covid Symptoms:** may include fever (>100.4°F) or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, cough (new, changed, or worsening), nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose.
- **Positive Covid Test Protocol:** If your child tests positive for COVID:
 - Notify the school and isolate at home.
 - Student may return to school after FIVE days (test day or first day of symptoms is day 0) if:
 - No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) AND
 - Symptoms have significantly improved
 - **NOTE:** Days 6-10: Student **MUST wear a mask** when they are in the school building.
 - [Covid 19 Symptoms and Flowchart for Schools](#)
- **Notification of Potential Exposure to COVID in the School:** The school office will send out an email to families if there has been a potential exposure in their student's classroom.
- **Mitigation of transmission of COVID:** We will be doing the following to mitigate Covid transmission in our school.
 - Providing increased ventilation in classrooms through open windows and air filters.
 - Providing daily cleaning and disinfection of high contact surfaces.
 - Educating students on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.