



COVID-19 FAQ for K-12 Schools

The following document is in response to frequently asked questions related to the October 27, 2021 updates made to K-12 guidance documents from the Department of Health (DOH).

Requirements for K-12 schools, mandated by Governor Inslee's emergency proclamations [20-09.4](#) and [21-05.1](#), are listed in the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#). **This FAQ does not change any of the requirements.** Additional recommendations are provided in the [K-12 Supplemental Considerations](#) document. Further information and resources for schools can be found on DOH's [Resources and Recommendations page under the Schools and Child Care](#) subheading.

The clarifications provided below will be incorporated into the next update of the K-12 guidance, anticipated by January 2022.

Identification of Close Contacts in Schools

Please refer primarily to the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#) and [K-12 Supplemental Considerations](#) documents for the most complete information on identifying close contacts in K-12 schools. The following is a technical clarification of the requirements.

Can the 3-foot close contact exception criteria used in structured school settings apply to a bus or other school transportation?

- Yes, if the following conditions are met, the K-12 close contact exception criteria may be applied when identifying close contacts:
 - Seating is assigned and adhered to throughout the duration of the trip, **AND**
 - Masks are worn correctly and consistently throughout the trip, **AND**
 - The bus is properly ventilated (i.e., windows and vents are open) throughout the duration of the trip.
- Please see the full information in the "Identifying Close Contacts in the School Setting" in the [K-12 Supplemental Considerations](#) document.

Performing Arts, Athletics, and other School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

Please refer primarily to the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#). The following information is intended to provide clarification of certain requirement for performing arts, athletics, and other school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

General

Do sports camps, or other activity camps, run by schools need to follow the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#)?

- Yes. Sports camps or other activity camps affiliated with a K-12 school must follow the mask and testing requirements listed for each activity in the guidance.

Screening Testing

What are the requirements for musical performances where there may be groups of participants singing?

- In a musical performance, unvaccinated soloists are required to undergo bi-weekly testing before they may remove their mask for rehearsals and performances as outlined in the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#). Members of the musical chorus must remain masked during rehearsals and performances, regardless of vaccination status or testing. Ideally, the number of unvaccinated soloists in a performance should be limited.

If a participant has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and recovered, do they need to participate in the screening testing protocol for high-risk sports and/or performing arts activities as indicated in the [K-12 Requirements for 2021-2022](#)?

- No. Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and recovered do not need to participate in screening testing, even if unvaccinated, unless symptomatic.

Do out-of-state visitors need to be tested before coming into Washington to play?

- Yes. Any out-of-state athletes, coaches, trainers, and other personnel traveling into Washington to compete must provide documentation of a negative test within 24 hours preceding the competition. They do not need to participate in ongoing repeat testing.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

A person's race/ethnicity or nationality does not, itself, put them at greater risk of COVID-19. However, data are revealing that communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This is due to the effects of racism, and in particular, structural racism, that leaves

some groups with fewer opportunities to protect themselves and their communities. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share only accurate information to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

more questions? Call our COVID-19 Information hotline: **1-800-525-0127**

Monday – 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday and [observed state holidays](#), 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact a health care provider.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.