

COVID-19 Update

January 9, 2022

Dear Stanwood-Camano families and staff,

On December 27, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated and shortened the recommended isolation and quarantine period for the general population; this update can be found by [clicking here](#). The update from the CDC applied to the general population but did not immediately apply to schools and other settings like convalescent centers. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) establishes requirements for public and private K-12 schools. Typically, the DOH will align their requirements with those of the CDC; that alignment can take a week or more to be formally published. On Friday evening, January 7, 2022, the DOH released their new requirements for K-12 schools.

The updated K-12 guidance aligns school requirements with the CDC recommendations given in December of 2021 and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The updated K-12 guidance includes changes to several additional areas of our current practice. We have outlined these changes in the table below. Additionally important information for families, students and staff can be found below the table.

| Topic | New Requirement(s) |
|------------|---|
| Isolation | <p>Isolation happens when a person tests positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they can return to school after they have been isolated for 5 full days. Upon return to school, they must have a negative test (PCR or rapid antigen). The negative test must be administered by the school or a healthcare provider. At-home tests are not permitted for this purpose.</p> <p>If a COVID-19 test given after 5 days of isolation is positive, the individual will need to complete a 10-day isolation period (5 additional days) and then may return regardless of test results.</p> |
| Quarantine | <p>Quarantine happens when a person is a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>Students and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 can return to school as a participant in the Test-to-Stay program or after they have quarantined for 5 full days after the last time they were around a close contact. Upon return to school, they must have a negative test (PCR or rapid antigen). The negative test must be administered by the school or a healthcare provider. At-home tests are not permitted for this purpose.</p> <p>Quarantine would apply to all unvaccinated people, all adults 18 or greater who have not received a booster, and all children 5-17 who haven't completed a 2-dose Pfizer series.</p> |

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| Test-to-Stay | <p>Test-to-Stay is a program that allows students and staff who are close contacts to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 to test daily and remain in school as long as they continue to test negative while in the program.</p> <p>Students and staff eligible for Test-to-Stay may attend school, school-related extracurricular activities, and school-aged child care during their quarantine period if they participate in serial testing as required by the Test to Stay program. These individuals would test as soon as identified, and again at day 5.</p> |
| Positive Household Members of Unvaccinated Staff and Students | <p>When an unvaccinated person is a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person in their own household please contact your child(ren)'s school to establish the necessary isolation and/or quarantine period.</p> |
| Close Contacts with Antibodies | <p>Close contacts of an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 who has had and recovered from COVID -19 in the past three months do not need to be quarantined. These individuals should be tested for COVID-19 with an antigen test 5 days post-exposure(s).</p> |
| Extra-Curricular Activities and Athletics | <p>All close contacts of an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to participation in athletics only by adhering to Test-to-Stay protocols.</p> |
| Vaccination Status | <p>Staff without a third dose booster may be considered a close contact eligible for quarantine and Test-to-Stay.</p> <p><i>* We expect more information regarding "vaccination status" and boosters.</i></p> |

Walk-Up Testing and School-Site Testing

As a result of the updates described above and in an effort to ensure student, staff and family safety, we will need to adjust some of our procedures to accommodate increased testing requirements, contact tracing, managing isolation and quarantine timelines, etc.

We take our responsibility to provide testing for our families seriously, along with contact tracing and other tasks associated with COVID-19. As of Wednesday, **January 12, 2022**, we will be providing a centralized walk-up testing service as a **back-up** when schools and nursing staff may be unable to test students, staff or families at their local school. Because school nurses are also charged with day-to-day duties such as diabetic care, asthma, medication management, student illness and injury they may not be able to immediately provide COVID-19 testing. We encourage you to contact your school as the first option for a COVID-19 test. The school will direct you to our COVID-19 walk-up testing program only when the school is unable to provide a test themselves.

Our walk-up testing program will be housed at **Stanwood High School in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) lobby**. The PAC is accessed through the front of the school (facing 272nd). Families are asked to part in the visitor parking lot. Testing will be available on a walk-up basis during these hours:

- 7:30 am - 2:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 - 2:30 pm 4:30 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 7:30 am - 2:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday

This area is isolated from the main areas of the school, has a secured staging area and allows for testing in a way that ensures testing is not done in or near the general population of the school. COVID-19 testing is done at no cost.

All COVID-19 testing will still require a paper or digital consent be signed or on file.

Calls to Families from County Health Department

We have been made aware that families may have been contacted by their respective county health department and told that they are eligible to return to school as a result of these new updates. If this is the case for you or your family, please contact your school before returning to school. Your student(s) will need to complete a COVID-19 test and test negative prior to their return. Families may provide a negative test result from a healthcare provider if they prefer; at-home tests are not permitted for this purpose.

**Respectfully,
Deborah Rumbaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent**