



Sequim School District No. 323

Engage Empower Thrive

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***Updated* January 13, 2022**

September 27th, 2021

To our Sequim School District Families and Community,

In collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health, the Sequim School District is participating in a state-funded effort to provide voluntary COVID-19 testing that will be incorporated into our existing district plans to further help contain the virus, protect our communities, and keep students and teachers safe and healthy whether they are remote or in-person. Please refer to the Washington State Department of Health's PREP Act Authorization: [PrepActAuthorizationLearnToReturn.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

We recognize that the pandemic has been hard on everybody. Many of us know someone who has been sick or have a family member who is high-risk. Our students miss their friends. Our teachers miss their classrooms. Our parents are balancing work and school from home. We have all been slowly adjusting to living with COVID-19, and while it's still hard, we know much more now about how the virus behaves and what we can do to stop it.

We believe that safe, in-person schooling is a priority – it's better for students, it's better for teachers, and it's better for our economy because it helps parents get back to work. Even if you've been vaccinated, if you have a cough, fever, or other symptoms, you should still get a COVID-19 test right away.

Protocols, including referring symptomatic people for testing, and prevention practices like masks and distancing will be part of school life at least through the end of the 2021-22 school year.

By including a covid testing program, we have an opportunity to adapt our school practices so that we can minimize risk, contain, and control the virus, and keep students and teachers safe in classrooms.

Voluntary testing is a part of a comprehensive program which includes: (1) consideration of daily symptoms by families so that they can keep their students who are ill, or exposed to covid at home (2) free and easy same-day COVID-19 testing for students on campus who present with symptoms of covid (3) an outbreak response plan, (4) contact tracing, and (5) isolation or quarantine as directed by the Clallam County Department of Health. This testing protocol fits into our larger strategy to contain and control the virus. Please see our district reopening plan [Fall Back to School Plan 2021-2022](#).

How to access the Covid Antigen Testing COVID Consent Form on Skyward:

Parents will go to: Skyward→Family Access→Custom Forms→COVID-19 Informed Consent & Testing Authorization Form
Parent/Guardian Consent:

Both families can submit a form

a. This means that a family that share custody-either parent can submit a form for their child.

Student – 18 years and over

Only students at SHS, SOS, OPA, or DVS who are in grades 11 and 12 – have access to the form.

****Students will go to:** Skyward→Family Access→Custom Forms→COVID-19 Informed Consent & Testing Authorization Form -
Student

- **Infection prevention protocols:** Our schools are already implementing several layers of protection to mitigate COVID-19 transmission and prevent infections. These include wearing face masks, social distancing, improved ventilation and air filtration, improved cleaning and disinfection, adjustments to foot traffic patterns, scheduling, and cohorts to reduce the number of contacts.
- **Symptom check and report:** We are asking everyone – teachers, staff, students, and families – whether you are teaching and learning at home or at school, to evaluate your own daily symptoms and exposure concerns. We will be using the [Clallam County Return to School Flow Chart](#) at school to help families and direct our student care on campus [Symptoms](#) include a fever of over 100.4° F, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, headache, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea (2 or more loose stools in 24 hours). Exposure means that you have had contact with someone who has had COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- **Voluntary testing:** Students on campus who show symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to a testing site (each school's health room). Families will need to have completed the COVID-19 Consent for their child (Skyward Custom Form). Families will be contacted by phone to ascertain whether or not they want their student (under 18 yo) to have a Rapid COVID Test for the symptoms they are exhibiting.

If so, then trained staff can test for COVID-19. If the test is positive, the student will be asked to isolate for at least 10 days and until symptoms have resolved. If the test is negative, they will be asked to isolate until symptoms have improved.

- Shallow nasal swab tests: We're partnering with a company called **BinaxNOW** which uses painless shallow nasal swab test kits. Please see test information at: [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card - Fact Sheet for Patients \(henryschein.com\)](#). If we run out of BinaxNOW we may also be using **CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test**. Please see **CareStart** test information at: [Patient FS \(stat-technologies.com\)](#) With these kits, you collect your own sample under the observation of a trained test administrator (younger students may need assistance). The school nurse will train people designated by the school perform the test and collect the results.
- Outbreak response: When a positive case is identified, the school will activate its outbreak mitigation plan. All "close contacts" will be asked to quarantine for 10 days (no test required), or 7 days with a negative test result.
- Contact tracing: As usual, every positive case will be reported to the Clallam County Health Department and the Washington State Department of Health for case investigation and School District contact tracing staff, to prevent further transmission.
- Support during isolation and quarantine: By staying at home and avoiding outside contact during the temporary isolation and quarantine period, you will be doing your part to protect our community and keep our schools open.

Food support to get through a quarantine/isolation period.

- All three local foodbanks offer food delivery
 - Port Angeles – caller can just call the food bank number (360-452-8568) and press option 5 and leave a message for food delivery. Or fill out this form: <https://www.portangelesfoodbank.org/delivery-request>
 - Sequim – have caller call 360-683-1250 by 9am on Monday morning to get delivery later Monday afternoon
 - Forks – give Pat Soderlind's contact information for caller to arrange food delivery: soderlind@centurylink.net or 360-640-8211

All additional support getting through quarantine/isolation period.

- Catholic Community Services 360-417-5640
 - Have volunteers who can pick up groceries (pre-ordered), deliver medicine or medical equipment, provide buddy phone calls for low-income seniors and disabled persons.
- Serenity House
 - Rent assistance program www.serenityhouseclallam.org/t-rap
- OlyCAP <https://olycap.org/>
 - Energy Assistance Program
 - Rental and Mortgage Assistance
- PUD 360-452-9771
 - COVID-19 Customer Support <https://clallampud.net/covid-19-customer-support/>
- Olympic Area Agency on Aging www.o3a.org
 - Case management support
 - Forks office 360-374-9496
 - Sequim office 360-452-3221

We are still making changes to allow for social distancing, and we are still asking everybody in our community to mask up, wash their hands, avoid crowds, and watch out for symptoms. Each precaution we take is like an added layer of protection, and when used together, they dramatically decrease the risks.

Our goal is to put the best possible strategies in place so that our teachers, staff, students, and families feel safe, protected, and comfortable focusing on teaching and learning—and so our students can get the great education they deserve.

Thank you,

Joan Zook

Interim Superintendent
Sequim School District

Sequim School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Victoria Balint, vbalint@sequimschools.org, Title IX Coordinators, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Sequim School District Office, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3260; and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Cheryl McAliley, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3401, cmcaliley@sequimschools.org.