

## 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](#)

**Have 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](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).