

COVID-19 Procedures - Fall 2021

We will operate the campus with the following practices to care for the health and well-being of our community:

Reporting and Screening:

- Everyone should stay home and away from school and others if experiencing any of the following possible symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 - Fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Any person who comes to the Explorer West campus will submit a daily health screening survey using the SWS app regarding current day health, attesting to the absence of any COVID-19 symptoms and known exposures. The school will send out a reminder each day to the screening survey, which must be completed PRIOR to arrival at campus.
- Any student or adult who has had to stay home for any of the above reasons needs to have their return to school approved by Carol, the Pandemic Safety Coordinator.

Face coverings:

- Masks are to be worn at all times while indoors unless there is a medical exemption.
- Masks are to be worn outdoors in most circumstances, while our surrounding community is in a period of high transmission. Masks may be removed outdoors for eating and drinking, when adequate distance is observed. Faculty may sometimes also allow students to remove masks outdoors during structured, supervised activities when distancing is possible.
- Masks must cover the nose and mouth.
- Masks should be 3-layer cloth, KN95, or disposable surgical masks. The school will supply masks as a backup in the event anyone does not have an appropriate mask.

- Students should have an extra mask in their backpacks. Reusable masks should be laundered regularly and disposable masks should be replaced daily.
- Special mask procedures will be in place for music class.

School Day Procedures:

- Upon arrival at school, students will report to a campus access monitor in one of two locations: on the sidewalk at the East (front/28th Ave SW) driveway or on the walkway from the West (back/gravel- 30th Ave SW) parking lot. Drivers should remain in their vehicles and should remain on campus until all students they have transported have been cleared by the monitor. Clearance means the monitor has confirmed that we have received a record of the completed screening survey and the student has passed screening criteria to be admitted to campus.
- All students and teachers will wash hands before and after eating, after using the restroom, and as needed throughout the day; hand sanitizer will also be available to supplement hand washing.
- All students and teachers should use their own materials to minimize sharing.
- Campus access is limited to faculty, staff, and students. Adults transporting students should remain in their vehicles.
- Lunch and breaks will take place outdoors. Students will not have access to microwaves for lunch.
- Students will not have access to lockers, but will keep their belongings with them. (This may change later in the year.)
- Everyone should be dressed appropriately and prepared for a variety of weather conditions.
- Explorer West classrooms have individual HVAC systems which have high-efficiency filters and do not transfer air to other rooms. Additional HEPA air filters have been placed in classrooms as well. In order to maximize air flow and bring in outside air, windows will be open in the classrooms. Dress for comfort with open windows.

Testing:

- Explorer West will offer testing for all students, faculty, staff, and any family or community members who would like one. There is no cost for this testing.
- We will have
 - rapid antigen tests (shallow nasal swab, processed on site with results in 15 minutes), and
 - PCR tests (shallow nasal swab, mailed to lab for processing, results in 48-72 hours).
- Explorer West will require testing for all participants in our fall Outdoor Ed trips before departure on the first day and for other events and activities as warranted.
- The School may institute regular screening testing if advised by local officials.

- Any member of our community who is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to a close contact with Covid may be tested at Explorer West.
- The tests are provided by the Washington State Department of Health at no cost. Insurance information will be requested, if available, to cover the costs of processing the PCR tests.
- Parent/Guardian consent will be required to perform any testing.

In the Event of Illness

- Anyone who indicates the presence of symptoms or exposure in the screening survey will be required to stay away from school.
- If a student develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated in a designated area or room and Parents/Guardians will be called for immediate pickup. The school will provide a Covid test and inform the family of test results.
- Current guidelines from Public Health Seattle & King County are that:
 - Anyone who has symptoms and is confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain home and away from others for:
 - At least 10 days from when symptoms started;
 - **AND** At least 24 hours after fever has resolved (without fever-reducing medication)
 - **AND** symptoms have improved.
 - Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 but never develops symptoms should remain at home and away from others for at least 10 days after the date of their first positive COVID-19 test.
 - Anyone who has symptoms and has not been tested or is waiting for test results should remain at home and away from others
 - A student may return to school after *suspected* COVID-19 infection:
 - At least 10 days from when symptoms started;
 - **AND** At least 24 hours after fever has resolved (without fever-reducing medication)
 - **AND** symptoms have improved.
 - Anyone who has symptoms and has been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative result can return after:
 - 24 hours after fever has resolved (without fever-reducing medication)
 - **AND** other symptoms have improved.
 - NOTE: If a person has **only one short term symptom**, as defined below, they may be able to return the next day:
 - **ONE of the following symptoms:** fatigue; headache; muscle pain or body aches; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea
 - **AND** the symptom begins and resolves in less than 24 hours

- **AND** no known COVID-19 exposure (close contact).
- If someone believes they have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, but they have no symptoms, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms.
 - Close contact includes anyone in one or more of the following categories:
 - Been within 6 feet (2 meters) of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 for a combined total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period;
 - Live in the same household as a person with COVID-19
 - Cared for a person with COVID-19;
 - Been in direct contact with saliva or other body secretions from a person with COVID-19 (for example: been coughed on, kissed, shared utensils, etc.).
 - The close contact definition still applies when face coverings are worn by the person with COVID-19 or the other person.
 - Close contacts should be tested for COVID-19 no sooner than 48 hours from the exposure.
- **Fully-vaccinated individuals** who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, and who have no symptoms, do not need to quarantine.
 - If anyone in your household becomes ill with COVID-19 or suspects they have, please notify the school at Office@explorer-west.org and we will determine together the next steps.
 - Explorer West will notify community members as appropriate in the event of COVID-19 infections in the community.

Travel Considerations:

We ask all families to adhere to [CDC travel guidance](#). At this time there are no domestic travel restrictions in place for people who are fully vaccinated. CDC does not require fully vaccinated travelers to undergo quarantine. However, unvaccinated travelers should self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test, or for 10 days if they don't get tested. Families with unvaccinated students need to make sure they have accounted for the self-quarantine and testing requirements. Should testing be indicated, Explorer West can provide the testing.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- The classrooms and public areas will be cleaned daily, following CDC and Department of Health protocols.
- Equipment and gear in outdoor learning areas will be disinfected daily.

- Classrooms and restrooms will be sanitized during the day, following CDC and Department of Health protocols.
- Windows and doors will be kept open while the building is occupied.
- Each room is equipped with an independent HVAC system with high filtration and a separate HEPA air filter.

Community Notification in the Event of a Reported Case of COVID-19

In the event that a member of our community who has been on campus reports a positive test for COVID-19, we will communicate the information about the date and potentially exposed group to the community. In the event that a family member of a student or faculty member reports a positive test, if there is relevance to the community we will also communicate the information. Our notification practices are aligned with the guidelines provided by Public Health - Seattle & King County.

Vaccination

Our return to normal activities over time is dependent upon our community being vaccinated. All faculty and staff have been vaccinated. Vaccination for eligible students is *strongly encouraged* at this time. Once all middle school-aged students become eligible for vaccination, we expect to require vaccination for our students. We will, however, allow families to request a medical exemption if vaccination would pose a threat to health and such requests shall include proof of consultation with a licensed healthcare professional.

These procedures will be updated as needed as the year progresses. Please call us at (206) 935-0495 with any questions about this information.