

Frequently Asked Questions

Mask waivers- if a student can't wear a mask and parents provide a neck gaiter instead- does that neck gaiter require a waiver?

Neck gaiters are not approved at this time.

CDC still promotes masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

It has been suggested a student might wear a face shield w/ drape instead of mask-if the student already has a documented health history such as sensory issues- can the RN decide if the student may attend school or should the student go through the waiver process?

If there is a history of a cognitive or developmental disability that the nurse feels a child will not be able to tolerate a mask, the nurse has been delegated to make that decision. The child should then wear a face shield with drape if able.

Mask waiver process- please document the process steps.

Email Brittany at Brittany.morrison@doh.wa.gov to request a waiver. Have the parent ask for the provider to complete. Send completed waiver back to Brittany which will be sent the Health Officer for approval or denial. Brittany will send the completed waiver to the school nurse to keep on file.

If a student is sent home with symptoms and excluded for 10 days- and is not going to be tested- may a sibling w/o symptoms attend school? And is this not considering close contact even though the student w symptoms was not tested?

This will be based on whether the child with symptoms had a known exposure. If the child had a known exposure and is symptomatic, he is considered a suspect case and therefore the sibling would then need to quarantine.

If a student was tested negative from Rapid test but continues for several days after having symptoms (and HCP decides not to order a PCR test) should that student be allowed to school when symptom free?

This will depend on how soon the student tested negative after an exposure. A negative rapid test should be followed up with a PCR test for confirmation.

What to do when a LHP does not think it necessary to test even after several Covid symptoms had been present- and gives student a note that it is ok to return to school (after symptoms are gone)?

Would follow algorithm for symptomatic and not tested, along with our response guidance for approaching untested symptoms in high or low incidence areas.

We are getting notes from LHP stating students have allergies and unless the symptoms are outside normal range they may stay in school. Often these symptoms could be runny nose, red eyes, watery eyes and fatigue/ headache. A student might have those symptoms for days (within students normal range) but- at what time would it be wise to have them tested?

When the symptoms are outside their normal range and with any additional new symptoms.

At any point while individual is symptomatic, as viral shedding is highest on 1-2 days around onset of symptoms.

Isolation room: if still 6 feet apart does the room still need a barrier such as a curtain?

A curtain with 6ft would be ideal. Any barrier is better than none

If emesis happens in classroom- should rest of class leave and if so- for how long?

No, treat like you would if any child had emesis in the classroom.

Are Rapid test results valid in Yakima county or is a PCR required?

A positive rapid is considered a COVID case in Yakima Co.

Temperature Checks, using the no touch thermometers are not accurate outdoors. Is there guidance for accurate or acceptable practices for this screening?

If temp is >98.6 on outdoor screen would have student repeat the temp after indoors for 10 minutes to see if higher than 100.4

Can you give some guidance on should we collect the lab information with a medical release form? or can we just take the parent calling with the information or emailing as verification of a positive test result?

Just take the parent calling you. YHD will confirm the lab result once we have the name and DOB of the patient

Are gaiters an appropriate face covering. CDC current guidance is

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Not by YHD at this time