



PE ELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO. 301

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Dear Pe Ell School Family,

We want to let you know our process for communicating about cases of COVID-19 at our school. We are working with Lewis County Public Health and Social Services (LCPHSS) and are following all current guidance by the Washington State Department of Health to prioritize student and staff safety.

Confirmed Case

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, and was at school while they were contagious, LCPHSS will notify our school. They will communicate this medical information only with our designated COVID Response Team to protect the individual's privacy. Because of HIPAA laws, we cannot share details regarding the confirmed case.

Our COVID Response Team will work with LCPHSS to provide the information they need to determine who was in close contact with this person. This is to identify those who are at high risk of developing a COVID-19 infection so we can do our best to make sure we limit the spread of this illness in our school.

LCPHSS will call **only** those who were in close contact with the person while they were contagious and provide next steps. If you do not receive a phone call from LCPHSS or Pe Ell School District, no further action is needed. Your child may continue with in-person instruction. Because LCPHSS will contact only those who are affected — and to protect individual privacy — **our school will not contact families about a single confirmed COVID-19 case.**

Our custodial staff will thoroughly clean and sanitize all necessary areas based on COVID-19 protocols. Please remind your child of the following health tips:

- Stay at least 6 feet from other people.
- Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Clean your hands often. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Do not come to school when you are sick.

Confirmed Outbreak

Washington State Department of Health defines an “outbreak” as two or more students or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19, who are linked through a shared location, like a classroom or school bus, and did not have other significant contact outside of the school grounds.

If LCPHSS notifies us of a COVID-19 outbreak, **our school will contact the families of students from the affected shared location.** We will not share information with families who are not affected. We will suspend in-person instruction for students in this specific shared location and shift to remote instruction.

Whole school closure triggers are:

- If more than 10% (2 classrooms) are closed.
- If there is a rapid increase in cases.
- If there are 2 or more generations of transmission.
- If there is not enough staff for school to function.

We understand this news can be unsettling and that you will have many questions. LCPHSS has general COVID-19 information on its website: <http://www.healthygh.org/directory/covid19>. Our priority is to protect the health and safety of our students and staff, including your child.

Sincerely,

Kyle MacDonald, Superintendent

Brandon Pontius, Principal