



Frequently Asked Questions August 4, 2020

Information in this FAQ is in response to questions families asked at the webinars held the week of July 20-24. The FAQ is organized in topic format rather than specific questions. We did not include all questions asked during the webinar. Please reach out to your child's principal or the district office at frej@lynden.wednet.edu if you have question or need clarification on any of these topics or others that are not included.

1. Daily Temperature Checks

All students will have their temperature taken before school each day. This will be done at school. There will also be several questions that students will be asked to determine if they have experienced any COVID like symptoms. These questions will be routine such as do you have a sore throat or cough? Have you recently lost your sense of taste or smell? Etc.

2. Health Screening Performed Each Day

All students and staff will receive a health screening before entering school each day. The screening will ensure a child or staff member does not have fever, shortness of breath, or cough. School personnel will look for visual signs of illness (flushed cheeks, rapid or difficult breathing, fatigue, and cough).

3. Face Covering

All Student will be required to wear masks unless a student has an exemption based on a health condition or other qualifying circumstance.

We are still exploring the possibility that students and staff could wearing face shields and are waiting for the Health Department to respond to questions on this topic. If a student refuses to wear a mask they will not be allowed to attend class and parents will be contacted to come to pick up their child. If a student cannot wear a mask due to legitimate exemption a plan will be developed to ensure the child is able to participate in learning at school.

Masks are required while at school except when eating. There will be mask breaks. We have not determined whether masks will be required while students are at recess.

Families will be responsible for providing an approved mask for their child. Please contact your child's school if you need assistance in getting masks.

The following individuals are exempt from the requirements to wear a face covering:

- a) Children younger than five years old; and
 - Children who are younger than 2 years old should never wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation.



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- Children who are two, three, or four years old, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult are strongly recommended to wear a face covering at all times in settings like grocery stores or pharmacies, where it is likely that a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from non-household member and vulnerable people must go.
- b) Persons with a medical condition, mental health conditions, developmental or cognitive conditions, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
 - Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
 - Those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
 - Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.

4. Physical Distancing at School

Schools must have a plan to maintain six feet of distance when all students and staff are seated in a classroom. Some tasks and movements while at school will require student interactions that are closer than six feet, including passing in the hallway or moving around a classroom. However, to the best of a school's ability, physical distancing systems and protocols will be utilized at all times.

Plexiglass or other partitions cannot be used to reduce the six-foot physical distancing requirements. The six-foot planning framework is a mandate, regardless of other health mitigation strategies that a district may choose to add.

5. Transportation Plan

Families and students will be encouraged to self-transport as much as possible.

Unlike classroom time, which can be more than six hours a day in some schedules, bus rides are typically shorter in duration and are often essential for students to access their basic education.

However, multiple additional health mitigation strategies such as face coverings, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning, and maximum air circulation are necessary when riders cannot follow the six-foot social distancing rule on buses.

The specific plan for transportation is in process. More information will be coming soon.



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6. Food Service and Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be provided for students who attend school and as a grab and go for students who are not in school on a given day.

- Meals may be served either in the cafeteria or the classroom.
- 6 feet distancing requirements must be observed when students are eating.
- Face coverings are not required while students are eating.
- Logistics for meal services are being determined by each school and will be finalized prior to the start of school.

7. Facility Cleaning

There is specific guidance on cleaning practices and protocols for schools each day and for buses after each run. We are following the CDC recommended strategies for cleaning. Please follow the link to read more about CDC's recommendations. [CDC's recommended cleaning procedures.](#)

- Cleaning plan – Regular cleaning and sanitizing will be increased with extra emphasis on all high use touch points unless a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 is determined.
- We will institute our COVID -19 disinfection response plan based on a low, mid, or high-level event. Disinfection fogging will occur at minimum of once per week provided no outbreak has occurred.
- All cleaning, sanitizing, and, disinfecting products used will meet or exceed the guidelines of the CDC and are all EPA approved.

8. Response to COVID Symptoms and Contact Tracing

The health department is providing guidelines for our response to a suspected positive case and or symptoms. Each school will have an area a student will go until parents are able to pick them up from school if they have a temperature or exhibit symptoms that could be COVID. The difficult thing about suspected symptoms is that it is often hard to distinguish between COVID symptoms and other things like allergies or a cold.

If there is a suspected positive case identified at school the health department will follow up with families to determine if testing is needed and the level of quarantine that is required. The school district will not conduct testing on site, this is a family's decision and responsibility along with their health care provider.



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If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their family should notify the school. The local health authority will advise the district on next steps, and it is likely that many of the other students or staff who were in close contact with the infected individual will need to self-quarantine.

School do not necessarily need to close if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID. Once a case has been confirmed, local health authorities will take over any contact tracing strategies and help determine the level of response.

Response activities will depend on the number of cases, the extent of the exposure, and whether the virus appears to be spreading within the school. We are working with the Whatcom County Health Department to plan for the possibility of confirmed cases.

If COVID cases emerge, both the local superintendent and the local health officer have the authority to close a school with the local health officer holding ultimate authority to order a closure. The process will depend on the circumstances.

9. Learning Plan Options – Options for learning plans are being developed

- Lynden in School - In person learning
- Lynden Home Connect – Parent as primary instructor with LSD support
- Lynden Online – full online learning option with either an LSD staff or third-party vendor certificated teacher.

Details about these options will be shared later this week.

10. What about choir, band, and PE?

Choir, band, and PE are considered high risk activities due to the nature of the class activity. Distancing requirements need to be expanded to safely have students participate in these classes. If we can offer these classes, they will not look the same as in the regular school year with a classroom full of students. We may need to adjust our elective offerings for students during this time.

11. Supports for Student with Learning Needs

Student supports and interventions – IEP, EL, additional time and support, accommodations, speech, OT, PT, etc. - In all three options we will seek to provide student's supports including student's IEP and EL services. If families, choose in person we will seek to maximize these services during in person learning. If families, choose Lynden Home Connect or Lynden Online then we will work with you to provide services to your child.



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12. Information on additional topics will be provided over the next few weeks:

- Volunteers and parents entering schools
- Technology and devices for students who need them
- Sharing supplies and materials
- Lunch and recess protocols
- Elective classes such as band, choir, PE, and others that are considered higher risk

13. How should I talk to my child about COVID-19?

Here are some resources that may help you with discussions regarding COVID-19 with your child.

- [National Association of School Psychologists](#): Talking to Children About COVID-19
- [Child Mind Institute](#): Talking with Kids About Coronavirus
- [PBS Parents](#): How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus