

NURSE NEWS



GOAL: Keeping *healthy* students IN the classroom and sickness OUT!

- **Q. What sort of COVID test are accepted?**
- A: PCR or antigen, including at home and rapid testing.
- **Q. Why should I report a positive case to the school?**



A. To prevent spread and keep the school open! Reporting a positive case allows our district contact tracers to identify any students or staff who may have been exposed. If a case is not reported and there is transmission in the classroom, *the entire class or school may be forced to quarantine.*

- Be prepared to pick up your student within **1 hour** of a call from the wellness room.
- Update parent and emergency contact information in ParentVue.
- **Create a childcare plan NOW** for an unexpected illness or absence of up to *two weeks*. You will NOT have warning if your student is a close contact and must quarantine.
- **Be clear when notifying attendance of an absence.** Specify symptoms when applicable.
- A **Mental Health Day** is an excused absence!
- The secretary, office manager, teacher, GSA and even principal are **not legally allowed to make health assessments.** That means they are not able to determine if a student is lying about a symptom to go home. That conversation needs to come *from the parent.*

Q. What's the benefit to my student?

A. If you report the positive, your student's absence is marked as a mandated quarantine instead of an illness. This means the teacher is obligated to provide some form of instruction during their absence.

Q. How are you protecting my child from stigma associated with COVID?

A. Your child's perception of COVID and those who get COVID started forming back in March of 2020. The pandemic has changed, and so too must our conversations. We can address bullying at school, but the work to break down the stigma needs to start at home. How do you talk about COVID with your children? With other parents? What are the conversations like that are happening on social media? Are they respectful? Judgmental? Supportive?

Q. It's just a cold, why do you need a COVID test?

A. Coronavirus often mimics the symptoms of a cold virus in children. Your child's healthcare provider cannot accurately diagnose a cold versus COVID in your child, therefore we cannot accept a parent's diagnosis without a test.

Q. Why can't my student come to school with a runny nose?

A. Coronavirus, rhinovirus, norovirus or influenza—they don't belong at school! If you wouldn't want your child's classmate passing it along to your child, then don't bring it to school.

Can you spot the difference?

3 feet 3 feet

Student B tests positive and has been in school while infectious.

Student A wears a properly fitting mask, snug and above the nose. Student A does **NOT** need to quarantine as a close contact.

Student C likes to pull the mask down and wear it below the nose. Student C **WILL** need to quarantine as a close contact.

Make sure your child wears a snug mask that stays up!

WARNING: GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BSD follows guidance from the King County and Washington State Departments of Health