

Reopening Entiat Schools

On August 10, 2021, the Washington State Department of Health in conjunction with OSPI and Governor Inslee's Office released the latest K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for the 2021-22 School Year. Below are frequently asked questions and an overview of the Health and Safety Protocols the Entiat Schools will follow for Students and Staff as we begin the 2021-22 school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

What will school look like this fall?

OSPI, DOH, and the Governor's Office have mandated that all Washington students will have the opportunity to attend school in-person full-time (five days per week) in the 2021-22 school year. The Entiat Schools will be open to serve PreK-12 students with full-time instruction.

Will there still be an online option for learning?

No. The Entiat Schools will not be offering online options. If this is your desire, please contact us and we can provide you with options.

Will there still be health and safety measures in place?

Yes. The following mandatory measures will still be in place in the 2021-22 school year: face coverings for all students, staff, and visitors (regardless of vaccination status); maximum ventilation; regular cleaning and disinfecting; and procedures for responding to and reporting cases of COVID-19.

What physical distancing requirements will be in place?

DOH recommends 3 feet of physical distancing in classrooms and 6 feet elsewhere to the greatest extent possible. Flexible language in the guidance related to physical distancing (i.e., "to the greatest extent possible" and "to the degree possible and reasonable") ensures schools are able to provide full-time in-person instruction to every student and family who wants it.

Will masks be required?

Yes. All school personnel, volunteers, visitors, and students must wear face coverings (regardless of vaccination status) at school when indoors and when riding school transportation. The CDC's order requiring masks on public transportation regardless of vaccination status applies to school buses and transportation. **Passengers and drivers are required to wear a mask on school buses.**

Will schools still be required to screen all students, staff, and visitors for symptoms?

No. For the 2021-22 school year, DOH removed the requirement that schools need to screen students, staff, and visitors at entry to school buildings. However, schools will continue monitoring students, staff, and visitors for symptoms, and follow the protocols for responding to someone who shows symptoms of COVID-19.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be required for students in fall 2021?

No. The State Board of Health, which has sole authority to set immunization requirements for students, is not requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for children in school settings.

Can School Districts decide to mandate the vaccine for students, even if the state doesn't?

No. State law (RCW 28A.210.140) provides full authority to the State Board of Health to establish the procedural and substantive requirements for immunizations for students.

What are the masking requirements for extracurricular activities?

- Masks are not required for outdoor sports of any contact level but are recommended in settings where unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, and/or support personnel are in close proximity, such as standing on sidelines, in a huddle, or sitting in a dugout.
- Masks are not required for athletes while competing in low-contact or moderate contact sports indoors, regardless of vaccination status (Volleyball).
- Masks are not required for fully vaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports (Basketball). Masks are not required for unvaccinated athletes in high-contact indoor sports (Basketball) if they participate in screening testing.
- Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing (i.e., when seated on the bench)
- **Masks are not required for spectators attending outdoor events. Masks are required when in line or at the concession stand.**
- **Masks are required universally for all spectators attending indoor K-12 sporting activities, regardless of vaccination status. Audience members should be seated in "family units" and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart.**

2021-22 Health & Safety Protocols for Students and Staff

This information is subject to change and will be updated as requirements change.

The goal of the Entiat School District health and safety protocols for students and staff is to minimize transmission of COVID-19 in schools and maximize in-person instruction.

Masking/PPE

- All school personnel, volunteers, visitors, and students are required to wear face coverings or an acceptable alternative (e.g. surgical mask or clear face shield with a drape) at school when inside, even if vaccinated.
- Staff and students are **not** required to wear masks while **outside**, regardless of vaccination status.

- Employees who provide proof of vaccination to the District Office may remove their mask when students **are not** in the room nor expected to be in the room and are with other employees distanced at least 6 feet apart.
- Employees who are not vaccinated are required to wear a mask at all times when inside, unless alone in their classroom/office/workspace and students are not present or expected to be present.
- Masks may be removed to eat and drink.

Employee Vaccinations

- To be considered fully vaccinated, the Entiat School District is requiring each employee to provide proof of vaccination or state immunization record to the District Office.

Student Vaccinations

- The school nurse will access the state database to confirm student vaccination records. Students or parents/guardians **do not** need to bring a copy to the school office.

Physical Distancing

- For students, 3 feet of distance will be maintained in classrooms and other indoor facilities to the best of our ability.
- Desks and tables do not need to face the same direction.
- Staff must remain 6 feet from students and other staff when possible. 6 ft. physical distancing should only be broken when academically necessary or for safety purposes.
- During high-risk activities, when increased exhalation or aerosolization occurs, such as PE or exercise, singing or playing instruments, and cheering and shouting. The activities should be moved outdoors or to a larger, well-ventilated space whenever possible so distance can be maximized to at least 3 feet.

Quarantine:

Fully Vaccinated Staff/Students

Exposure: Staff/Students who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after close contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

Those who have had a documented positive COVID-19 test in the past three months

Exposure: No quarantine, but must meet the following criteria:

- A documented positive test (provided to the District Office) within the previous 3 months and has recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

CDC Recommendation:

- 5 days from exposure- receive a COVID test
- Wear a mask for 14 days after exposure
- Continue to follow physical distancing of 6 ft. from others

Non-Vaccinated Staff/Students

Staff Exposure- is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Student Exposure- is defined as being within 3 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Protocol

- Home for 10 days without testing
- Home for 7 days after receiving a negative test (test must occur on day 5 or later)
- Watch for fever (100.4-F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

After Quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact the District Office (staff) or school nurse (students)

Positive for COVID-19 Regardless of Vaccination Status

Home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared or 10 days from the positive test (if you don't have symptoms) and

- 24 Hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

** Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.*

Sick Students/Staff

If you are sick, **stay home**. Any student or staff who reports COVID-19 like symptoms must be immediately isolated from others sent home and referred to diagnostic testing as soon as feasible.

- Staff who test positive or have a need for quarantine must contact the District Office.
- Students who test positive or have a need to quarantine must contact the school nurse.
- School staff will work with parents and students to make learning accessible during quarantine.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

The Entiat School District has the ability to provide an Antigen Rapid test. Please call 784-1911 to request a testing appointment.

Disinfecting

In the building, staff will resume standard cleaning and disinfecting practices. With the emphasis on cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria, and high traffic touchpoints nightly. Classrooms will have disinfectants available if the need arises.

Hygiene

Maintaining hygiene and handwashing etiquette is important to stopping the spread of germs and viruses. Handwashing with soap and water is required after going to the bathroom, playing outside, and before eating food. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used.

Transportation/Buses

To ensure ventilation and airflow on school buses, windows will be cracked during operation. All passengers and drivers will wear masks. Physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Meals/Eating

The Entiat School District will be serving free meals for breakfast and lunch for all students. Students will eat in the commons. Students will be physically distanced to the greatest extent possible while eating. Students are not required to face the same direction while eating as long as 3 ft. of social distancing is observed.

Hydration

Students should bring refillable water bottles to school. Water dispensers and drinking fountains will be available.

Volunteers/Parents in Building

Buildings are open to the public. Volunteers who are in the building for an educational purpose are allowed. Volunteers are required to follow all staff safety protocols.

School Events and Assemblies

Schools will be able to host smaller parent events (Curriculum nights, PTA events) Masks are required and physical distancing is recommended to the greatest extent possible. Indoor student assemblies and activities are allowed following the 3 ft. social distancing and masking protocols.

Staff Events, Training, and Meetings

Masks are required to be worn by staff unless they have provided proof of vaccination. If students or children are present, masks must be worn regardless of vaccination status. The physical distancing of 6 ft. is required between staff/students and staff/staff (unless necessary for academic or safety purposes) Anything less than 6 ft. physical distancing will require staff quarantine should staff/students test positive for COVID-19.