

Hello families! This message is to explain the efforts that WCDS is doing to create a safe and healthy environment for students to be able to learn and have fun. With the 2021 school year upon us, we are thrilled to share the changes/upgrades that worked well and that have become standard practice at Woodinville Country Day School.

The plan that we have created has many layers. The layers that we are dealing with can change and we must adapt. Our goal is to make choices based on what is safest for students and staff. With that being said, the Department of Health has set aside guidelines to follow and this is the basis of our guidance. I am very confident that with the protocols in place, we will be able to have a spectacular and healthy year. Here's what we are looking to offer this school year:

For families that are enrolled in our school year program, we have the following practices in place:

All students will have a wellness screening at the front door including a contactless temperature check.

- Classes will be staggered by 15 minutes to allow a socially distanced wellness check as well as a safe pick up and drop off.
- Parents will be allowed to walk their children to the front door and socially distance from the window and wave goodbye.
- Students will immediately visit the restroom before school and wash their hands with soap and water. They will also wash hands before snack and lunch as usual. Students will have access to hand sanitizer at all times.
- Students will stay with their classmates for the entire class day and invited to use the playground as the only class outside! We will have lots of time outside! Students will sanitize upon exiting and entering classroom.
- Teacher floaters will be on site to help with recess, teacher prep, and constant sanitizing of bathrooms and classrooms.
- We have well monitored heat pumps that circulate the air and serviced every 3 months.
- We have a printed set of Covid guidelines and procedures to share in our parent and staff handbook, posters to share, as well as accessible information on our website!
- Our bathrooms were upgraded in 2020 with touch free sinks, toilets, and soap/sanitizer dispensers.
- Teachers and will always be wearing a mask while indoors.
- Students will bring a snack and lunch each day. We will ask that the items be easy for children to get to. They will be socially distanced during eating and snack time will be less than 10 minutes. Lunch will be limited to 15 minutes with extra time (and spacing) given to students who need more time.
- Students will be walked to the curb for valet pick up every day.
- We will be pausing our after-school enrichment program.

One of the important questions is our illness policy and our policy to return to the classroom. The following information is our recommended illness policy guidance.

For the health of your child, other students, and school staff, it is important to know when your child should stay home due to illness. Students should stay home if they have had any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100 or higher in the last 24 hours
- undiagnosed rash that is accompanied by fever or itching
- bad cough or difficulty breathing
- vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- sore throat, with fever or swollen glands in the neck
- symptoms of being sick such as being unusually tired, fussy, pale or had difficulty waking

In addition to the above symptoms, the CDC has provided a list of covid-19 symptoms. Most coronavirus illnesses are mild with fever and cough. Adults and children with COVID-19 have reported the

following symptoms or combinations of symptoms. These may appear 2 – 14 days after exposure to the virus:

- ● Fever or chills
- ● Cough
- ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ● Fatigue
- ● Muscle pain or body aches
- ● Headache
- ● New loss of taste or smell
- ● Sore throat
- ● Congestion or runny nose
- ● Nausea or vomiting
- ● Diarrhea

Students or family members who exhibit any one of the following symptoms should stay home. If they come in contact with a person who tests positive (unmasked, within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or longer), a negative PCR test is required for return. We ask that you notify the teacher and director so that we can decide if any further protocol needs to take place. With any positive cases that enter the school doors, an email will go out to the entire school and students affected will be contacted directly.

If your student comes into direct contact with a student at WCDS who tests positive, the entire class will be informed and asked to get a PCR test. Those students include anyone who was unmasked, indoors, within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more.

Sadly, we will also have our fair share of common colds and flu symptoms this year. While we all know the symptoms and protocols for these annual illnesses, it is hard to rule out Covid. We ask that you do all you can to help us stay safe. When in doubt, sit it out! We are happy to get your child caught up in class! While we don't like when your student is absent, we are so thankful that we are all taking care of ourselves, which translates into taking care of each other and the school! Thanks for your efforts to keep our doors open!

Danielle Beresford
Director & Teacher Woodinville Country Day School