

Washington State Department of Health Talking Points

October 31st Rescission of COVID-19 emergency proclamations and state of emergency

What Does this Mean for K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs and Providers?

The Department of Health, in accordance with its mission to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State, will continue to provide COVID-19 prevention and control guidance based on existing science, strategies, and the most recent health recommendations, to protect school and child care communities and reduce COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks.

What should K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs and Providers expect through October 31st?

All requirements and recommendations specified in the [K-12 School and Child Care Requirements and Guidance](#) **will remain in place.**

[DOH's COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine efforts](#) **will remain in place** before and after October 31st.

- Learn to Return COVID-19 testing supplies, distribution process, and ELC labor fund support **will continue to be available in the 22-23 school year.**
- How testing results are reported to DOH **will not change.**

What should K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs and Providers expect starting November 1st?

Many requirements in the [Requirements and Guidance to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission in K-12 Schools and Child Care](#) will become **recommended strategies** to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in schools and child care programs. DOH will continue to review the K-12 School and Child Care Requirements and Guidance with the intention to clarify, simplify, and align with the CDC guidance; more information will be forthcoming.

The Employee COVID-19 vaccination requirement per the [Governor's proclamation 21-14.3](#) **ends**; this includes employees, volunteers, and indoor contractors in educational settings.

[DOH's COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine efforts](#) **will remain in place** before and after October 31st.

- Learn to Return COVID-19 testing supplies, distribution process, and ELC labor fund support **will continue to be available in the 22-23 school year.**
- How testing results are reported to DOH **will not change.**

REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL STAY THE SAME

The Reporting COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health requirement will stay the same. This requirement was in effect for all [notifiable conditions](#) before the COVID-19 pandemic and **will continue to be in effect for schools and child care programs.**

- All COVID-19 cases, outbreaks, and suspected outbreaks in schools and child care settings **are required to be reported** to the Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) in accordance with Washington State law ([WAC 246-101](#)).
- Schools, child care providers, and the general public are required to cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of cases and outbreaks that may be associated with the school or child care ([RCW 705.070](#)).

DOH is supportive of the schools, child care providers, and local health jurisdictions that choose to layer protective measures or strategies to help ensure students, children, and staff can continue in-person activities safely. Local health officers have the authority to require any measures as they deem necessary to promote public health ([RCW 70.05.070](#)).

Additional Resources:

Schools and child care programs can find **LNI worker safety requirements** here: [Coronavirus/COVID-19 Workplace Safety & Health \(wa.gov\)](#)