



1/20/22

Dear HSD Staff,

We are writing today to provide some important updates and clarification around current practices as they relate to contact tracing and vaccination requirements.

Contact Tracing

On Friday, Jan. 14, the Oregon Health Authority updated its recommendations for [contact tracing in the K-12 setting](#). Contact tracing is no longer required for potential close contacts when universal masking has been in place. This means that if a student or staff member was on campus during their infectious period, the only situations that will be investigated for potential close contacts would be those where masks were not worn consistently (e.g. breakfast, lunch, snack, music, or sports).

This change will help alleviate the workload of our contact tracing team and nurses, allowing them to focus on situations where transmission is more likely and act swiftly to mitigate the risk of infection to others.

Vaccination and Booster Shots

We have received several questions about the CDC's new guidelines around quarantine requirements for unvaccinated close contacts. Those guidelines state that the following people would need to quarantine for at least five days after their last close contact if they are in one of the following groups:

- People who are ages 18 and older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have **not** received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- People who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine over two months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.
- People who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.

We understand that getting a booster shot was and still is not part of the Governor's mandate for school and district staff, and we also understand that getting a booster shot has been difficult. Therefore, we are providing a **grace period** for staff members to get their booster shot, if they so choose:

- HSD staff will have until **Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2022**, to receive a booster shot and therefore **avoid quarantine if they are determined to have been in close contact** with a COVID-positive individual.
 - If an HSD staff member is determined to have been a close contact due to a **non-household exposure** between now and Mar. 1, 2022, and they have **completed their primary series of recommended vaccine**, they will **not** be required to quarantine.
 - If staff **have not received a booster by Mar. 1** and are determined to be a close contact on or after that date, they **will be subject to quarantine**.
 - HSD staff with **household exposures** will need to follow all directions provided by the Contact Tracing team, regardless of vaccination status.



For information on where to obtain a booster shot, please visit www.hsd.k12.or.us/vaccine. The upcoming clinics at Lincoln Street Elementary School on Jan. 22 and Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. would be a great opportunity to get your shot.

Technology Services is currently working on the data collection site where staff vaccination information is stored to allow staff to add booster shot information, if they so choose. Again - getting and sharing booster shot information is currently voluntary, but could help you avoid quarantine if you are in close contact with a COVID-positive individual. If anything changes regarding the vaccination mandate, we will communicate that as soon as possible.

Pop-Up Staff Testing Clinic

Our pop-up COVID-19 testing clinic for staff has been a very valuable resource as we endeavor to get staff back to work as soon as possible after exposures and illness. Therefore, we are extending the clinic indefinitely. Please refer to the [article](#) on the Staff News page of our website for details on the location and hours of the clinic (currently 8 a.m. to noon each day, with the exception of Wednesday, Feb. 2).

You can help our clinic be even more successful and safer for those running the clinic and those seeking testing by observing the following protocol:

- If you have been diagnosed with a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19 and take a test (either at home, from a provider, or at the clinic) on day 5 that comes back **POSITIVE, you must isolate for an additional 5 days** for a total of 10 days of isolation. Please **DO NOT** come back to test on days 6, 7, 8, or 9 to see if you are negative. You can come back on **day 10** to make sure you test negative before returning to work.

Please reach out to the [Contact Tracing team](#) 503-844-1784 with any questions.

Thank you so much for your flexibility, patience, and understanding as we navigate continually changing conditions! We appreciate you!

Hillsboro School District