



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
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Phone 509-925-8000
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November 16, 2020

Dear ESD Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you had a great weekend.

As most of you know, yesterday, Governor Inslee announced more restrictions that will have an impact on our families and community.

Per Inslee's address, the following will go into effect this week:

- restrictions on social gatherings at churches and restaurants
- restrictions on family gatherings to immediate family living within your household

To hear Governor Inslee's announcement, visit: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattlenews/health/gov-inslee-orders-sweeping-restrictions-on-indoor-gatherings-restaurants-bars-gyms-as-covid-19-cases-surge-in-washington-state/>

In addition to these restrictions, all indoor music and sports practices have been put on hold. We will work together with teachers and coaches, as necessary, to support them with the implementation of these new restrictions. More information will be provided to parents from their children's schools regarding these restrictions.

Many of you have wondered about the impact that this announcement may have on our schools. Here is what we know, in partnership with Kittitas Public Health Officer Dr. Larson and from Governor Inslee's message:

1. We can continue with in-person instruction with our hybrid model. This is due to our multiple layers of safety measures that are in place (social distancing of 6' or more, proper fitting face covering to cover the nose and mouth, repeated hand washing, sanitizing, and daily attestations). ESD is actively promoting and implementing these safety measures. Every ESD COVID-19 positive case that has been identified (when staff and students have been at school) has been related to exposure outside of the school setting. Additionally, the number of people who have been identified as close contacts and having to quarantine has been relatively low and, in some cases, nonexistent due to the diligence of our staff and students in adhering to these important safety measures.
2. Contact tracing by Kittitas County Public Health Department will remain in effect. Contact tracing is a vital part of schools remaining open. We work closely together with Kittitas County Public Health Officer Dr. Larson and our school nurses, to keep staff and students healthy and safe.

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



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3. So far, there have been no outbreaks of COVID-19 in our schools. According to the DOH, an outbreak can be defined as two or more cases of positive COVID-19 within a school that are connected or epi-linked and are between people who do not share a household, and are not listed as a close contact of each other outside of the workplace during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

Please know that the health and safety of our staff and students remains our highest priority. We will continue to work closely with Dr. Larson on remaining safe and enforcing all health and safety guidelines. Thank you for your hard work in remaining focused on doing your part to keep you and those around you healthy and safe and our children in school. ESD is committed to providing a quality education. Our counselors are also available to offer support for the social and emotional needs of our staff and students.

I am so thankful for our amazing ESD team and know that together we will prevail.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer, ESD Superintendent

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