

August 4, 2020

We recognize that this time of uncertainty is challenging for students and parents. Our goal is to provide ICRS families with as much information about the upcoming school year as we can with the understanding that the COVID-19 situation remains fluid. We have created this FAQ in an effort to share answers to questions we are hearing from families. The responses will be updated as plans are further developed.

General

- **Whose jurisdiction is followed as schools plan to open on-site this fall?**
Guidelines set forth by Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and in some cases, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) are followed in order to open doors on-site this fall.
- **Is school reopening directly linked to the particular phase of Skagit County?**
No. The reopening guidance aligns with all four phases of Washington State's Safe Start Plan. As a reminder, even in Phase 4, individuals and employers must engage in appropriate physical distancing (6 feet or greater), use of personal protective equipment (PPE), illness monitoring, hand-washing and other personal hygiene practices, and cleaning activities.
- **What is the school offering for fall going to be?** ICRS is currently planning to offer an 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday offering for all students. However the school is working on an alternate Hybrid plan should that be required to keep children and staff safe.

Screening

- **Do all students and staff members need to be screened for illness each day?**
Yes. Both DOH and L&I require students and staff to receive a health screening before entering the school each day.
- **Are temperature checks a required element of screening?** Yes. Whatever screening methodologies are used by a school, they must include a temperature check in either the attestation or the on-site screening.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Are students required to wear masks at school?** Yes. DOH requires everyone in a school building or on a school bus to wear a face covering.
- **Can students remove their masks at any point during the school day?** Students will be able to remove mask for recess, lunch, and outdoor PE class.
- **Can students use a face shield instead of a cloth face covering?** Yes, though cloth face coverings have a superior ability to capture more droplets from speaking, coughing, sneezing, etc.

Facility/Classroom Changes

- **How will classrooms be configured for social/physical distancing?** Desks will be spaced out in each classroom following DOH guidelines.



Technology

- **How can my student or family get help with technology issues if remote learning is necessary?** Planning is currently in-progress to implement training the first two weeks of school ensuring all students are well equipped to utilize all software and/or technology that would be used in a remote learning environment.
- **Are laptops or other computer devices available for families if remote learning becomes necessary?** Yes. Currently ICRS is planning to send laptops home with 5th through 8th graders and Chrome-books home with 4th graders.

Transportation

- **Will we continue to share busing with Mount Vernon Christian School? Will those students follow the same guidelines while on the bus?** Yes. We are still planning to partner with MVCS with the buses for this year. Yes. Like classrooms and common spaces in school buildings, students, drivers, and aides must wear face coverings while on the bus.
- **If students are wearing face coverings on buses, can the bus be at normal capacity?** Yes. Unlike classroom time, which can be in excess of six hours a day in some schedules, bus rides are typically short in duration and are often essential for students to access their basic education. However, multiple additional health mitigation strategies such as health screening, face coverings, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning, and maximum air circulation are necessary when riders cannot follow the six-foot social distancing rule on buses.
- **What about bus routes where some students are riding for longer durations?** Buses can be occupied at normal capacity, but ICRS will have clear protocols for students to maximize physical distance on the bus for as long as possible until it is necessary to fill in the last of any available seats.

Daily Activities

- **Will sports be offered during the 2020-2021 school year?** The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) released modified athletic schedules for the 2020-21 school year. ICRS participates in a WIAA league and will abide by WIAA rules. <https://wiaa.com/News.aspx?ID=1724&Mon=7&Yr=2020>

Safety and Wellbeing

- **What is the process that ICRS will take if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19?** If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their family should notify the school. The local health authority will advise ICRS on next steps, and it is likely that many of the other students or staff who were in close contact with the infected individual will need to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **Do schools have to close when there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID?** Not necessarily. Once a case has been confirmed, local health authorities will take over any contact tracing strategies. ICRS will follow the elements outlined in the OSPI guidance, including developing a response and communication plan specific to this situation.

