

OESD (Olympic Educational Service District) 114 COVID Mitigation Policy

Regulations

EHS/HS: Program Instruction ACF-PI-HS-23-01

Purpose:

To protect children, families and staff from infection and illness in consultation with Health Advisory Committee and integrating guidance from Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), local health departments (LHJ) and the Office of Head Start (OHS).

Policy:

Mitigation Strategies

Prevention and risk reducing strategies based on the levels of COVID-19 in the community may be implemented within the program or individual exposure following guidance from CDC, DOH, LHJ, OHS or OESD. They may include but not limited to:

- Daily health screenings
- Increase ventilation
- Cleaning, Sanitizing and disinfecting
- Isolation and quarantine of sick children or staff
- Required COVID-19 testing and reporting
- Increasing outdoor time with children
- Wearing masks or other PPE equipment
- Frequent handwashing
- Respiratory Etiquette
- Suspending home visits, program gatherings and visitors
- Provide remote learning

COVID-19 Community Levels

COVID-19 community levels help individuals and communities decide which prevention actions or mitigation strategies to implement based on the latest COVID-19 cases or hospitalization data. OESD Early Learning Department follows CDC recommendations for individual level prevention actions based on COVID-19 Community Levels. At all times, OESD makes available the minimum prevention steps including; supporting vaccination recommendations or an approved exemption, support available ventilation improvements, program procedures to support exposure additional testing, mitigation and isolation practices.

COVID-19 Vaccination

OESD Early Learning Department follows program procedures, CDC and OHS requirements regarding COVID-19 vaccinations for staff and volunteers.

Prioritizing Strategies and Responding to Changing Conditions

Prioritizing mitigation strategies will be determined based on program operation requirements, CDC, DOH, LHJ, OHS or OESD. Materials to support mitigation strategies (masks, tests, cleaning materials) are provided by the department. The program Health Manager will monitor community levels of COVID-19 and work with LHJ as needed to determine mitigation practices. The program Health Manager will communicate with staff and families mitigation strategies as needed. Communication will occur in a variety of ways to meet the needs of staff and families: email, phone, using interpretive support and face-to-face communication

Additional Precautions

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs