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As we prepare to start another year with COVID in our midst, there is some important information you need to know about our COVID protocols. We follow guidance from the State Department of Health and Public Health Seattle & King County. The latest update from DOH came out on August 5th. We use this recommended [flowchart](https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/820-229-SymptomExposureFlowchartK12SchoolsChildCare.pdf) to determine what steps to take if a child has covid symptoms, tests positive, or is a close contact. You can find the full guidance from DOH that came out on 8/5/22 [here](https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/821-165-K12SchoolsChildCare.pdf). Here are some key aspects of our current practice that we take from this guidance:

* Masks are optional both indoors and outside at Interlaken, starting September 7th.  Per the CDC guidance, if the community COVID-19 transmission level get’s to a high level, we will move back to indoor masking.
* All children with symptoms need to have a rapid/antigen COVID test before coming to school. If a child arrives at school with symptoms and we haven't received confirmation of a negative test, we will call you and ask you to pick them up (or swing by) to give them a rapid test, or ask your permission to give them a COVID test. Once they receive a negative test, and if their symptoms allow for them to fully participate in school activities, they are welcome to come to school. Families are asked to let the office know when their child has symptoms and share results of any rapid tests or PCRs with the office before their child attends school.
* DOH no longer requires exposed students, children, and staff to quarantine.  Regardless of vaccination status, people who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 should:

·       Monitor for symptoms, AND

·       Test\* as soon as possible after exposure and then repeat testing every 24-48 hours through at least the first 5 days after exposure AND

·       Students, children, and staff will wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure.

·      Children and adults who test positive for COVID can come back to school after 5 days have passed if they have a negative test on day 5 and can wear a well-fitting mask for a full 10 days. If the individual is still testing positive on day 5, we ask that they stay out of school for a full 10 days.