



Clatsop County

Department of Public Health

820 Exchange St., Suite 100
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-8500 phone / (503) 325-8678 fax
www.co.clatsop.or.us/publichealth

December 9, 2021

Dear Knappa School District Community,

Over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic school districts have faced many unique and difficult challenges as they balance the needs of their students and safety of the community. I commend the many hardworking members of Knappa school district community for all the ways you are supporting students, school employees and our community.

I am writing you today because there are identified cases of COVID-19 within your school district and we would like to offer you support and guidance in responding to those cases. The safe environment that you help create at school is also what students and school employees will bring home to their family and friends, some of whom are at greater risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 and whom we all have a responsibility to protect.

Isolation and quarantine are important tools to prevent the spread of illness. People who are sick with COVID-19 can be contagious before they test positive and for the whole time they are sick, regardless of symptoms. If those who have COVID-19 stay home in isolation once they realize they are sick, they will not expose more people. If those who have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person follow all the recommended quarantine guidelines for the period of time in which they might become sick themselves, they are less likely to expose anyone. This is also why masking is another important tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19 because those who may be sick and not know it are less likely to expose others if they are wearing mask around each other. The Knappa school district community is an integral part of making sure that students, school employees and the community stay safe by following the state requirements that lower the risk of exposure at school.

If you or your family members are dealing with a COVID-19 illness or exposure, work with your school and us here at the Health Department to keep your family, friends and community, especially its most vulnerable members, safe from COVID-19.

The Clatsop County Department of Public Health stands with you in supporting the least restrictive environment for students, which include in-person learning and extracurricular activities, while maintaining the health and safety of students, school staff and our community.

We are here to assist you with any COVID-19 concerns and can be reached by phone at 503-325-8500 or by email at health@co.clatsop.or.us. Information about vaccination, testing and more can be found on our website <https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/publichealth>.

Respectfully yours,

Margo Lalich, MPH, RN, CDPM
Public Health Director
Clatsop County Department of Public Health