



The decision to return to full-time, in-person classes

This November some of the San Juan Island School District students will return to in-class learning. Plans for a safe return to school have been made based on recommendations from San Juan County Health Officer Dr. Frank James, and other public health experts. Strict public health and safety guidelines have been created to make sure all schools are safe. Plans were prepared with the input of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, board members and public health experts.

Schools support children in developing their potential and acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities they need for lifelong success. Getting children back into the classroom is essential for their overall health and well-being, emotional development, social growth, and educational needs.

Our Back to School plan:

Our Back to School Plan includes



1. New health and safety measures
2. Additional funding for protective equipment
3. Learning groups to reduce contact

These measures are in place to help keep everyone safe in school. Individual schools will communicate their plan with families their plan for students this year.

Back To School Facts:

What you need to know for returning to school

COVID-19 science & kids

COVID-19 has a very low infection rate in children 19 years and under, and especially low in children under 10. Children who have developed COVID-19 have most likely acquired it from adults in the household setting. Kids who get COVID-19, usually have milder symptoms, such as a low-grade fever, dry cough, and gastrointestinal issues.

Health and safety measures

Health and safety measures create safe school environments and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Safety measures include students and staff staying home when they are sick (no exceptions!), increased cleaning at schools, regular handwashing and/or hand sanitizing, wearing masks in common spaces, keeping a safe distance from others when possible, and keeping students in classrooms and learning groups.



Safety measures have been proven to work well in schools because they are controlled environments that have consistent groups of people.

Keeping a safe distance

Students and staff are expected to maintain a safe distance from others in school. In classrooms, students will be given as much space as possible. Students and teachers in learning groups are not required to stay 6 feet apart, but physical contact will be limited.

Stay home when sick

Public health guidelines for schools are firm:

If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, they **must not** enter the school.

Daily health screening

Staff and students must do a daily health check.

Parents and families will attest to the following questions before going to school:

- In the last 24 hours, have you experienced any of the following symptoms in a way not normal to you?
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- In the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or tested positive yourself? Yes No



If the answer is **yes** to either of these questions, please keep your child at home, keep them isolated, and seek care from a health-care provider. Staff will attest to the same questions each day.

Learning Groups or Cohorts

A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the semester or year and who primarily interact with each other. Students will remain in their learning group during recess and break times. It's important to remember that students will spend most of their time in the classroom, with much smaller numbers of people than the learning group maximum.

For students, learning groups will mean:

- ◆ Fewer contacts overall
- ◆ Fewer shared spaces and surfaces
- ◆ Keeping a safe distance limiting physical contact
- ◆ Regular activities with the same group of people
- ◆ If someone attending school tests positive for COVID-19, public health officials can quickly identify close contacts and get in touch

Learning groups provide important benefits for students, including more in-class learning time, increased peer interaction and support, and decreased feelings of isolation.

Wearing masks at school

Masks will be required for all students, teachers, and staff in the following circumstances:

- ◆ On buses
- ◆ In common areas like hallways
- ◆ Outside the classroom or learning groups when you can't maintain a safe distance. As children are playing outside at recess, there will be times when they are less than 6 feet apart. According to the SJ County Health Department, this type of incidental contact is almost certainly less than 15 minutes and thus is considered incidental and of little concern. However, at this time SJISD may require the wearing of face masks at recess.

People who cannot wear masks for medical reasons should contact the student nurse or, in the case of staff, the HR Dept. Everyone must treat people wearing masks, and those who cannot for medical reasons, with respect.

School buses



Public health measures have been implemented to keep school buses clean and safe. Students should clean their hands before and after riding the school bus. Buses will be loaded from back to front, and unloaded from front to back, to reduce contact.

Students will be required to wear a mask on the school bus. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

What happens if there's a student or staff who tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student or staff shows any symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be supervised and cared for in a separate room and returned home as soon as possible. The individual will need to be assessed by a health-care provider. If COVID-19 is confirmed, public health will notify the school and district. They will then identify any potential COVID-19 exposures and reach out to anyone who may have been exposed.

Parents/guardians will be notified if their child has been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person. If that happens, your child is required to isolate for 14 days. Public health officials will work closely with the school to determine if further actions should be taken.

The school will support student learning while they are in self-isolation.

