



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Whatcom County Health Department Statement on Lynden Christian High School Reopening

BELLINGHAM, WA -- Whatcom County Health Department has been working closely with Lynden Christian Schools towards the safe reopening of their buildings by advising on the implementation of enhanced prevention measures consistent with the Washington State Department of Health's K-12 guidelines. The Health Department concurs with the decision to return high school students to in-person instruction and extracurricular activities.

"In the past week, the health department has tested hundreds of teachers and students to clear them from quarantine," said Dr. Amy Harley, co-health officer for Whatcom County. "As part of our work with Lynden Christian Schools, we considered the relatively lower number of cases in the high school as well as the school's efforts and renewed commitment to prevention and mitigation measures, including universal masking. Given the particular circumstances, the shorter quarantine period was appropriate. There are many health benefits to in-person learning, and we appreciate the school's hard work to ensure the safe return of their high school students."

The Washington State Department of Health's K-12 guidelines allow a 7-day quarantine period for people exposed to COVID-19 in schools if no symptoms have developed and after receiving a negative test result. The test should occur no sooner than 48 hours (2 days) before ending quarantine. The exposed persons should continue monitoring for symptoms until day 14 after the date of exposure.

Grades pre-kindergarten through 8 will remain in remote learning for the full 14 days.

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