



WA HE LUT INDIAN SCHOOL

October 1, 2021

Dear Wa He Lut Indian School families,

This is a notification to let you know that 3 of our classified staff members has tested positive for COVID-19. No certified teachers have tested positive for COVID-19 at this time. The staff members were interviewed as part of the contact tracing process. We also have 4 students quarantined at home due to positive COVID-19 tests. Based on the preliminary investigation, **your child was NOT identified as a close contact**. A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of the individual, with or without a mask, for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period during the individual's contagious period.

As a precaution we will be closing the school at noon today and all day on Monday October 4th for a deep cleaning by outside contractors.

Thurston County Health Dept will contact **only those who are considered close contacts** and provide next steps. If you do not receive a phone call from PHSS or our school nurse, then your child does not meet the close-contact criteria. No further action is needed. Your child may continue with in-person instruction.

Please remind your child of the following health tips:

- Stay at least 6 feet from other people.
- Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Clean your hands often. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a school-approved hand sanitizer. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Do not come to school when you are sick.

As you know, this past year has been very difficult for all of us, so we want to thank you for your patience and your continued support during these trying times.

We understand this news can be unsettling and that you will have many questions. Thurston County Health Dept has additional COVID-19 information on its website: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/covid-19-resources-schoolschildcare.aspx>. Our priority is to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. For further questions or concerns please contact Mr. Whitford or our school nurse Amber Magana at 360-456-1311.

Sincerely,
Harvey Whitford Superintendent/Principal
Office 360-456-1311 Cell 253-691-5018