

January 14, 2022

There have been many recent changes to COVID protocols designed to help us minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our students. Reduced isolation and quarantine periods and the expansion of Test-to-Stay protocols are welcome changes. Their effectiveness in preventing the spread of disease and keeping our schools open largely depends on wearing tight-fitting masks that contain the aerosolization of the virus. We have reinforced masking requirements for staff, and we want to encourage our students and visitors to our school to help us ensure a safe and healthy environment on campus.

This week, we suspended winter athletics because we did not have a sufficient supply of COVID tests to meet the requirements for participation in interscholastic athletics. We now have supplies on hand, and we plan to resume practices and games on Monday, January 17, 2022. While we will do our best to maintain a sufficient supply of tests on hand, this may be a week-to-week decision based on existing inventory.

Our strategic planning process is moving forward. We have had two (2) Project Team meetings, and we are hosting our first Steering Committee meeting this afternoon. These are small group meetings to work out the logistics of the strategic planning process. Throughout the remainder of this month and into February, we will conduct interviews, focus groups, and surveys that will allow everyone to provide input on the future of the Lopez Island School District. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to plot our course into that future.

With a three-day weekend ahead, we hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the time off, but please be safe and aware. The Omicron variant has not peaked in our area yet, and we need to be hypervigilant to ensure we keep it at bay in our community.

Thank you.