

Sept. 21, 2021

Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff:

Recently, two staff members were diagnosed with COVID-19. Their anonymity is protected by HIPPA guidelines.

Upon contact tracing, the staff members:

- Self-quarantined after symptoms started showing Wednesday, Sept. 15. They tested positive on Sunday, Sept. 19. While the second staffer started showing symptoms Monday, Sept. 20 and received a same day positive test.
- Both followed all protocols while on campus.
- Both are at home under quarantine with their families.

We have been in constant communication with the Department of Health and continue to have their support and assistance.

For further information about how to decide if you should keep your student at home or if they can return to school, [please see this flow chart](#) created by Skagit County Public Health.

Per our [Fall 2021 Re-Opening Plan](#), the person who tested positive will not be returning to campus until:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery AND at least 10 days have passed since first symptoms
- OR it has been at least 24 hours since recovery AND a healthcare provider provides a note that they no longer have COVID

Additionally, as per protocols:

- Social distancing and mask wearing was always followed while on campus.
- Unless your family has been contacted directly, we do not believe you or your child was directly exposed
- We have notified the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
- All buildings have been thoroughly and properly cleaned

If multiple community members test positive for COVID:

- Depending on the severity and the spread, the segment of the school with the cases or the entire school may be closed for 10 school days
- The first day of closure would be no instruction. For the remainder of the closure, educational services would be delivered in a modified (elementary) or remote/online (MS/HS) method

- Further procedures and recommendations are found in the [CDC School Guidance document](#)

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the situation and to remind everyone of preventative measures.

The symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to fever, cough, headache, body aches, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Some people have no symptoms at all, or the symptoms are so mild that they are not noticed. Some experience serious illness. If symptoms develop, the average time after exposure is about 5 days, but symptoms can appear anywhere between 2 and 14 days after exposure (the incubation period).

If you or your child develop any of the symptoms above, please contact your healthcare provider for further instruction.

Please do everything you can when you are in public to keep a physical distance of at least 6 feet, properly wear masks in public and sanitize and wash hands frequently (adults and children).

How can you help keep our students in school?

Everyone has a role. As we partner together, please follow the steps provided by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department:

- Stay close to home.
- [Wear a mask](#) when you leave home.
- [Limit your interactions](#) to a small circle of friends and family.
- [Keep gatherings small](#), and outside if possible where fresh air circulates.
- [Stay 6 feet apart](#) from others. Wear a mask when you cannot maintain 6 feet of space.
- Wash your hands, cover your cough, and keep up your best hygiene and sanitation.
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you are experiencing symptoms — or have participated in any gatherings — social, civic, business, political, athletic or otherwise.

We are following the latest guidelines from the [Department of Health](#) and [Gov. Jay Inslee](#) in regard to masks on campus.

For more information about COVID-19, visit [tpchd.org/coronavirus](https://tpchd.org/coronavirus).

We are so thankful that we have been able to keep our doors open to students being on campus since our re-opening this past fall. Please keep Sound Christian Academy in prayer as we continue with our in-person learning this fall.

Let's give praise for God's protection and petition for His continued providence.

Sincerely,

SCA Administrative Leadership Team