

**Sector Email 4.16.2021**

Subject header: Updates on COVID-19 from Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

Schools

Dear school partners,

The weather is warming up and its time to get back outside and enjoy the sun! Remember to continue to maintain distance, wear masks and keep hands clean on your outdoor adventures as well!

**Reminder: please review the [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#), [related resources](#), and [training videos](#).**

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This week’s Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC) Schools and Child Care Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

1. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
2. Physical Distancing in Schools during High Community Transmission
3. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools
4. Vaccine Updates
  - a. Updates to Vaccine Eligibility
  - b. Youth Eligible for Vaccination
  - c. Getting Vaccinated Resources
  - d. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
  - e. Interested in Hosting a Community Vaccination Event?
5. Vaccination Event for People with Disabilities 16+ - **THIS THURSDAY**
6. Return to In-Person Learning Support from WCAAP
7. Events
  - a. Webinar: Asthma-Friendly Schools
8. Please Share with Your Community
  - a. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
  - b. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine
9. Youth Sports Guidance
10. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

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**1. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity**

In its [K-12 Schools 2020-2021 Guidance](#), DOH recommends that in areas with high community transmission, middle and high school students use cohorting (grouping students) and at least three feet of distance between students or at least six feet of physical distance between students if cohorting is not possible. The following chart includes King County data aligned with these indicators of high community transmission. The following data are current as of **April 16, 2021** and are regularly updated on the [PHSKC COVID-19 data dashboard webpage](#).

Indicator	Current Status	High Community Transmission Rate <sup>1</sup> (Y/N)
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Cases/100K/14 days <sup>2</sup>	198.5/100K	N
Test Positivity Rate <sup>3</sup>	4.4%	N

## 2. Physical Distancing in Schools during High Community Transmission

DOH and CDC *recommend* that during periods of high community transmissions, one of the following occur in middle and high school settings:

- Students are in cohorts and maintain at least three feet of physical distance OR
- Students maintain at least six feet of physical distancing if not in cohorts.

DOH and CDC define ‘high community transmission’ as a 14 day COVID case rate greater than 200 per 100K residents or a test positivity rate higher than 10%. Schools may use the King County data to determine 14 day case rate and test positivity rate. This data is updated daily on the Key Indicator Data Dashboard, [located here](#).

Although the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery phases use similar metrics to determine the reopening phase of Washington state counties, the CDC and DOH recommendations for K-12 Schools is independent of Healthy Washington determination. Schools should consider utilizing this recommendation when data indicates high transmission, regardless of Healthy Washington phase.

Full guidance from DOH on physical distancing in schools can be found [here](#).

## 3. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools

King County is currently in Phase 3 of Governor Inslee’s [Healthy Washington: Roadmap to Recovery](#). Healthy Washington Metrics will be reviewed again on May 3, 2021 to reassess current phase. King County’s current *Healthy Washington* metrics can be found on Public Health’s data dashboard, [located here](#).

The following are some of the resources that K-12 schools and child care providers may find helpful:

- a. [Outdoor Recreation During COVID-19, including overnight summer camps](#)
- b. [Weddings, Funerals and Events During COVID-19, includes guidance for dances and proms](#)
- c. [2021 Graduation and Commencement Ceremonies](#) (DOH)
- d. [Miscellaneous Venue Guidance](#)
- e. [Spectator Event Guidance](#)

## 4. Vaccine updates

### a. Updates to Vaccine Eligibility

All Washington residents age 16 and older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. However, vaccination supply has not kept up with demand, and vaccines remain in short supply. To find available vaccination appointments, visit the King County [Getting Vaccinated](#) page, or Washington’s [Vaccine Locator tool](#).

### b. Youth Eligible for Vaccination

Pfizer BioNTech is the **only** vaccine approved for use in people who are 16 & 17 years old. The Moderna vaccine is approved for use in people who are 18 and over.

DOH is currently working to add vaccine type to the [Vaccine Locator](#) web page and mobile app to help simplify the process. In the meantime, Public Health recommends that 16- & 17-year old's and/or their caretakers who are scheduling vaccination appointments call to confirm that the vaccination site carries the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine when scheduling.

Youth under 18 will need consent from a legal guardian to be vaccinated, unless legally emancipated. Check with the vaccine provider to ask if minors can attend their vaccine appointment unaccompanied by their consenting adult.

### **c. Getting Vaccinated Resources**

The Public Health [Getting Vaccinated](#) page now has links to translations in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Khmer, Korean, Marshallese, Oromo, Russian, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Tongan, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The [Vaccine FAQ](#) page answers many common questions about COVID vaccine, and includes links to translations in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Khmer, Korean, Marshallese, Oromo, Russian, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Tongan, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

### **d. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community**

Interested in helping support your school staff or community learn more about vaccination? Do you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccines? Schools and child care providers are trusted resources in our community – please share the following information with your staff, students, families and community members!

- Public Health [Vaccine FAQ page](#).
- CDC [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Child Care Providers](#)
- Request a training from the [Public Health COVID-19 Speakers Bureau](#)

## **5. Vaccination Event for People with Disabilities 16+**

The Alliance of People with Disabilities, in partnership with Public Health- Seattle & King County and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, is hosting a fully accessible and inclusive community vaccination clinic for people with disabilities.

**When:** Thursday, April 22. 9AM-5PM

**Where:** Kent Senior Center - 600 E Smith St., Kent

**Who:** This event is intended for **people with disabilities, ages 16+**, as well as **family members and caregivers** of people with disabilities who live in South King county.

ASL and Tactile interpretation will be onsite throughout the day and other accommodation will be provided upon request in pre-registration.

If you need additional support finding an accessible ride to your vaccine appointment, please call 425-943-6706 (press 5 for language assistance) This event will be distributing first doses of the Pfizer vaccine and will be scheduling second dose appointments. **Pre-registration is required** and can be done

though Calendly at: <https://calendly.com/kimberly-214/4-22-kent-vaccine-clinic> **Vaccines will not be provided to those who do not pre-register.**

## **6. Return to In-Person Learning Support from WCAAP**

We are excited to be partnering with the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WCAAP) to support your return to in person learning. Many pediatric health care providers in King County have been trained by WCAPP on best practices for children, educators, and staff to safely return to in-person learning. They have volunteered to partner with us and to consult with your school leaders, nurses, and teachers to share information on COVID-19 and infection prevention, answer questions as they arise, and serve as resources for your schools within their capacity. Pediatric providers are also available to support schools and districts in hosting virtual Town Hall events or larger meetings with staff or parent communities. Please reach out to us at [schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov)

## **7. Events**

### **a. Webinar: Asthma Friendly Schools: Strategies to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission and Improve Indoor Air Quality**

Utilize guidance and tools from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to choose safer disinfectants, effectively clean school facilities, and provide recommended ventilation and filtration to not only mitigate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission but to create healthy learning environments for all students and staff, including those with asthma.

**Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2:30 EDT (10-11:30PT)**

[Register here](#)

## **8. Please Share with Your Communities**

### **a. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care**

The pandemic continues to rage on, harming not only our physical health, but also devastating jobs. Many people are finding themselves in sudden need to health insurance. There is now a [Special Enrollment Period](#) for free or low-cost insurance through Washington's Affordable Care Act health exchange – *Washington Healthplanfinder*. **The enrollment period has been extended to August 15, 2021.** The enrollment period is open to anyone who is currently uninsured. Public Health – Seattle & King County has a team of [Health Insurance Navigators](#) available to help answer questions and walk through the process of applying and selecting the right insurance plan. You can also browse plans and sign up directly through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#).

### **b. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation**

If you or members of your community need financial support to successfully isolate or quarantine, King County has two different programs available to support household bills and emergency food access. There is no income or citizenship requirement. For more information about the household assistance program, please [visit this website](#). Emergency Food assistance information can be [found here](#).

## **9. Youth Sports Guidance**

There has been an increased trends of COVID-19 outbreaks in youth sports. Indoor and HIGH contact sports have higher incidences of COVID-19 outbreaks compared to outdoor and LOW & MODERATE contact sports. The same precautions you take on the field need to be taken any time families and

youth are together. The following are some additional guidance and reminders for youth sporting events:

- Children participating in athletic activities should wear a snug fitting mask during all indoor sports, except for swimming and diving, cheerleading, and gymnastics.
- Persons on the sidelines, in locker rooms, and in training sessions should also wear a snug fitting mask.
- Spectators on the sidelines watching youth sports should also take precautions including physical distancing and properly wearing masks regardless of vaccination status as it is a public setting.
- Youth ages 16 and 17 should [get vaccinated](#) with the Pfizer vaccine as soon as possible.
- Adults should model good behavior such as wearing face masks and physical distancing.

For more youth sport guidance refer to the [DOH sporting activities requirements](#).

#### 10. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours are held each Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm. Please come with your specific COVID-19 questions related to your K-12 school (e.g., environmental health, clarification of King County guidance) – *and please join us to share promising approaches that your school is using to implement COVID-19 protocols as well!* If you have questions prior to office hours, please submit them to [schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov) with the subject line “Office Hours.” We will do our best to answer them during the following Thursday office hours session.

*\*\*Attendees are expected to review the [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#) and the associated [training videos](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page) **BEFORE** attending office hours.\*\**

[Join here](#) using password **COVID19**

*In health,*

*The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force*

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#### Childcare

Dear childcare partners,

This week’s Public Health — Seattle & King County (PHSKC) Schools and Childcare Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

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  - a. Updates to Vaccine Eligibility

- b. Getting Vaccinated Resources
  - c. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
  - d. Interested in hosting a community vaccination event?
2. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
  3. Resources from the Children’s Environmental Health Network

## 1. Vaccine updates

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- CDC [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Child Care Providers](#)
- Request a training from the [Public Health COVID-19 Speakers Bureau](#)

### d. Interested in Hosting a Community Vaccine Event?

Public Health is supporting community vaccination events by linking available vaccine providers with community organizations that meet specific criteria. Learn more about whether your organization can support a vaccination event, and how to submit a site for consideration at Public Health’s new [Community Vaccine Event webpage](#).

## 2. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care

The pandemic continues to rage on, harming not only our physical health but also jobs. Many people are finding themselves in sudden need of health insurance. There is now a [Special Enrollment Period for](#) free or low-cost insurance through Washington’s Affordable Care Act health exchange – *Washington Healthplanfinder*. **The enrollment period has been extended to August 15, 2021.** The enrollment period is open to anyone who is currently uninsured. Public Health – Seattle & King County has a team of [Health Insurance Navigators](#) available to help answer questions and walk through the process of

applying and selecting the right insurance plan. You can also browse plans and sign up directly through [Washington Healthplanfinder](#).

### **3. Resources from the Children's Environmental Health Network**

Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) website includes a wide variety of environmental health resources for child care providers, including webinar slides, hand-outs, and resource lists. These resources address needs from ventilation to mental health concerns to equity. The full resource page can be found at [this link](#).

*In health,*

*The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force*