

Sector Email 4.22.2021

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

Schools

Dear school partners,

Vaccination is now available for ALL Washington residents 16 and older! Vaccine supply is also beginning to increase – though demand is still greater than supply! While more people are becoming vaccinated, we still need to keep each other safe through masking and other mitigation practices.

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

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 – **UPDATE**
3. Updated School Operations Guidance from CDC
4. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools
5. Vaccine Updates
 - a. Updates to Vaccine Eligibility
 - b. Getting Vaccinated Resources
 - c. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
 - d. Vaccination Events and Opportunities
 - i. American Indian and Alaska Native Youth Vaccination Event
 - ii. Vaccination Appointments for South King County Residents
 - iii. In Home Vaccination Now Available
6. Events
 - a. Webinar: Asthma-Friendly Schools
 - b. COVID Vaccines: A Community Conversation
 - c. Vaccine MythBusters IG Event
7. Please Share with Your Community
 - a. Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund
 - b. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
 - c. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine
8. Youth Sports Guidance -**UPDATED**
9. King County COVID-19 Speaker's Bureau
10. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

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 22, 2021** and are regularly updated on the [PHSKC COVID-19 data dashboard webpage](#).

Indicator	Current Status	High Community Transmission Rate ¹ (Y/N)
Cases/100K/14 days ²	209.6/100K	Y
Test Positivity Rate ³	4.3%	N

2. Physical Distancing in Schools during High Community Transmission - UPDATE

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%. *Based on these our current metrics, King County is now in high community transmission.* This data is updated regularly and is [located here](#).

DOH *recommends* 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.

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. Updated School Operations Guidance from CDC

The CDC has updated some of its guidance documents in support of K-12 schools, including spacing and ventilation. In addition, some previous guidance has been updated and combined into a new document, [Considerations for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools and Institutions of Higher Learning \(IHEs\)](#). Other CDC guidance for K-12 schools can be found [here](#).

4. 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. Public Health recommends planning for potential changes in Phases when utilizing this guidance to plan events.

- [Outdoor Recreation During COVID-19, including overnight summer camps](#)
- [Weddings, Funerals and Events During COVID-19, includes guidance for dances and proms](#)
- [2021 Graduation and Commencement Ceremonies](#) (DOH)

- d. [Miscellaneous Venue Guidance](#)
- e. [Spectator Event Guidance](#)
- f. **UPDATED! Youth Sports Guidance**

DOH has added updated to its [sporting activities requirements](#), including adding **testing and vaccination protocol for wrestling and water polo**. This protocol requires twice weekly surveillance testing for participants, including on the day of competitions. Verification of negative test results is required, and files must be maintained by coaching staff. Full requirements for this protocol and other sports guidance, please review the full document [here](#). Some updates to spectator guidance have also been made, primarily removing household restrictions. Full spectator guidance can be found [here](#).

5. 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](#).

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.

b. 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.

c. 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](#)

d. Vaccination Events and Opportunities

i. Vaccination Event for American Indian/Alaska Native Youth

Saturday, April 24

Seattle Indian Health Board Pediatric Clinic and Family Health Fair

Second doses will be given at the SIHB Pediatric Clinic on Saturday, May 22. To make an appointment, call 206-324-9360 to speak directly with the scheduling team. Those younger than 18 will need a legal guardian to call and make the appointment. If you have difficulty reaching the scheduling team, send an email to covidvaccine@sihb.org including the name and phone number of the person authorized to make an appointment.

ii. COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments at King County's Auburn Outlet Mall and Kent ShoWare clinics for South King County residents, ages 16 and older.

Appointments are open until Monday, April 26.

Registration required at <https://covidvaccine.kingcounty.gov/>.

For assistance by phone (interpretation available), call 206-477-3977 any day 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

iii. In-home vaccination is now available

Starting Monday, April 19th, in-home vaccination is available for people age 16 and older who:

- Have not yet been vaccinated AND
- Have an injury, developmental disability or medical condition that makes it difficult to leave the home AND
- Would require considerable and taxing effort to get vaccinated outside the home

To request an appointment, call the King County COVID-19 Call Center at 206-477-3977, 8am-7pm. Interpretation is available. You will be asked a few questions to confirm you are eligible for in-home vaccination.

6. 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 6th 1pm-2:30 EDT (10-11:30PT)

[Register here](#)

b. COVID Vaccines: A Community Conversation

We'll be welcoming an outstanding panel with leaders from the Somali Health Board, International Community Health Services (ICHS), the University of Washington, Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS), Holy Temple Evangelistic Center, and Public Health. Panelists will answer your questions, share their own reasons for getting vaccinated, address common concerns, and discuss how to talk with hesitant friends and family.

Thursday, April 29, 5PM to 6:30PM

Zoom link: <https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/91748415135#success>

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, and Russian, ASL interpretation, and live captioning will be provided. This event is free and all are welcome.

c. Vaccine MythBusters IG Event

Youth 16+ are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine! We know lots of you have questions about the vaccine, including how it works, potential side effects, and how it was developed. We'll be hosting an Instagram Live to answer all your questions and more!

Friday, April 30th at 6:00 PM PST.

Tune in through our **IG page @kcpubhealth**

Don't miss out -- there will be prizes (\$25 gift cards) for Miss Rona's top 5 favorite questions.

7. Please Share with Your Communities

a. Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund

If you're an immigrant experiencing hard times because of COVID-19, and you aren't eligible for federal financial relief or unemployment insurance, this fund is for you. **Apply for the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund and receive a \$1,000 one-time direct payment. Applications are open! Apply by May 15th!** The application is open: <https://www.immigrantreliefwa.org/>

b. 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](#).

c. 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](#).

8. COVID-19 & How to Improve Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air ventilation is one of the most powerful and effective ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Public Health – Seattle & King County has developed **guidance designed for building/facility managers, business managers, and others** to reduce the spread of coronavirus indoors. For more detailed

information about these strategies and technologies, please review our [Guidance on Improving Indoor Air Ventilation](#) posted on www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air.

9. King County’s COVID-19 Speaker’s Bureau provides free presentations with the latest information, resources, and guidance on COVID-19 to communities in King County

The King County Speaker’s Bureau provides trainings for schools, community organizations, businesses, faith communities and other groups on a variety of topics, including vaccines, COVID-19 guidance, isolation and quarantine, and others. Submit a request online at <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/community-faith-organizations/presentation-requests.aspx>

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 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

Childcare

Dear childcare partners,

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

1. Vaccine Updates
2. COVID Vaccines: A Community Conversation
3. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
4. Resources from the Children’s Environmental Health Network
5. Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund
6. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation

1. Vaccine updates

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4. 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](#).

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