

## Sector Email 4.29.2021

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

### Schools

Dear school partners,

Vaccine eligibility is open and ***vaccine supply is abundant!*** We need help from school partners to make sure eligible students, families, and community members are aware of when and how to become vaccinated! Check out our action packed vaccination update section for information to share broadly.

**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. New Blog Post – Caution & Consultation are Key to Preventing Outbreaks in Schools
4. Updated Masking Guidance from CDC – What Does it Mean for Schools and Childcare Providers?
5. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools
6. Vaccine Updates
  - a. Getting Vaccinated Just Got Easier!
  - b. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
  - c. Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Available Again After Safety Review
  - d. Vaccination Events and Opportunities
    - i. Green River College Vaccine Pop Up
    - ii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
    - iii. NEW Shoreline Vaccine Site
    - iv. In Home Vaccination
7. Events
  - a. Webinar: Asthma-Friendly Schools
  - b. Vaccine MythBusters IG Event
8. 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
9. COVID-19 and How to Improve Indoor Air Quality
10. King County COVID-19 Speaker's Bureau
11. 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 22, 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)
Cases/100K/14 days <sup>2</sup>	236.0/100K	<b>Y</b>
Test Positivity Rate <sup>3</sup>	4.4%	<b>N</b>

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

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. New Blog Post – [Caution and Consultation are Key to Preventing Outbreaks in Schools](#)

Wondering what happens when a positive COVID test comes back in a school setting? Check out our latest blog (and share with families, students, and community members) to learn more about how resources, support and caution can work together to limit the spread of infection in school. This blog examines a single case but has great information for anyone who is curious about what happens *after* the test results come back.

## 4. Updated Masking Guidance from CDC – What does this mean for schools and child care providers?

On April 27, the CDC adjusted some guidelines on masks for fully vaccinated individuals in outdoor settings. These updates identify certain activities that fully vaccinated people can engage in relatively safely without wearing a mask. The full list of activities and guidelines can be [reviewed here](#).

Despite these changes in general guidance from the CDC, DOH guidance for both K-12 schools and childcare settings continues to require universal masking of all students, staff and employees over age 5 while in school or child care. This requirement has not changed with the CDC updates.

## 5. 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.

- 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](#)
- f. [Youth Sports Guidance](#)

## 6. Vaccine updates

- a. [Getting vaccinated just got easier \(at last!\)](#)

All Washington residents 16+ are eligible to be vaccinated **and vaccine supply is plentiful for the first time!** There are a number of options to find vaccine appointments – check out [Public Health Insider](#) for a complete list of options in King County, visit the [Getting Vaccinated](#) page, or Washington's [Vaccine Locator tool](#), and check out the list of vaccination events below.

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. The [Vaccine Locator tool](#) now includes the type of vaccine being provided so that 16 & 17 year old youth and their families can confirm the provider carried Pfizer BioNTech 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.

Vaccination is free and available regardless of insurance, citizenship, or immigration status.

### b. 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, PTSA organizations and community members!

- The attached fliers and information about vaccination sites
- 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](#)

### c. Johnson & Johnson vaccine available again after safety review

Use of the J&J vaccine had been paused on April 13 as the CDC reviewed a small number of reports of a very rare condition involving blood clots and low platelet counts, mostly found in women ages 18 to 49. After a thorough review of the data, the CDC determined that the risk of this condition is extremely low. In contrast, the J&J vaccine provides strong protection from the much higher risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Adults age 18 and older can get the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **d. Vaccination Events and Opportunities**

##### **i. GREEN RIVER COLLEGE VACCINE POP UP**

###### **MONDAY MAY 3RD 3-7PM**

Equity in Education Coalition's [pop-up](#) is currently pre-registering all individuals 16 years old and older. [THIS SIGN UP](#) is prioritizing BIPOC certificated and classified staff and students as well as international students.

Participants will automatically be scheduled for a second vaccine at Green River in 4 weeks.

##### **ii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites**

King County's high-volume vaccination sites at Kent accesso ShoWare and the Auburn Outlet Mall are open for appointments to anyone age 16 and older. [Register here](#) for appointments. Walk-in vaccination (no appointment required) is also available Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 1000 walk-in vaccinations at each location daily.

You will be able to choose from either the Moderna/Pfizer vaccine or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The Kent and Auburn sites are ADA accessible and have ASL and language interpretation on site. If tactile interpretation is needed, please contact [Seattle Deaf/Blind Service Center](#)

*Please see the attached flyer and print and distribute to families as you are able!*

##### **iii. Shoreline Vaccination Site**

Shoreline Center: [18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155](#)

Offered by UW Medicine and several north King County fire departments.

To schedule, call [206-520-8700](#), then press 0 between 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Interpreters are available – say the language you need when connected.

##### **iv. In-home vaccination**

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.

## 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](#)

### b. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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. 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](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air).

#### 10. King County's COVID-19 Speaker's Bureau

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>

#### 11. 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 Child care Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

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  - a. Getting Vaccinated Just Got Easier!
  - b. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
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2. DCYF and DOH Webinar – Updated Childcare Guidance
3. Updated Masking Guidance from CDC – What does this mean for schools and child care providers?
4. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
5. Resources from the Children’s Environmental Health Network
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## 2. DCYF and DOH Webinar – Updated Childcare Guidance

DCYF and DOH are hosting a webinar share information from the updated [Child Care Guidance](#). DOH will answer questions related to this guidance as time allows. Following the webinar, we will post the presentation along with the Q&A to our [website](#) located on the right-hand side of the page under “Child Care COVID-19 Webinars.”

### Child Care Providers Updates Webinar - English

Monday, May 10

1-2 p.m.

[Join Here](#)

**Access Code:** 133 246 0086

**Password:** dcyf21

**Call-in Number:** 1.360.810.3022



## **Child Care Providers Updates Webinar - Spanish**

Monday, May 10

6-7 p.m.

[Join Here](#)

**Access Code:** 133 909 4640

**Password:** dcyf21

**Call-in Number:** 1.360.810.3022

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### **5. 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](#).

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

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