

Sector Email 6.4.2021

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

Schools

Dear school sector partners,

With the school year winding down, the COVID-19 School Task Force will be holding our final office hours session of the school year on Thursday June 10th. We will continue to keep you updated with changes to guidance and important events through our e-mails and will be available to answer questions through the schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov inbox.

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) Child Care and Schools Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

1. Vaccination Updates
 - a. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
 - b. Vaccination Data Dashboard
 - c. Reports of Myocarditis Following Vaccination
 - d. Vaccination Events
 - i. Youth Vaccination Now Available at More Pharmacies
 - ii. King County Community Vaccination Event Calendar
 - iii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
 - e. Vaccination Side Effect or COVID Symptom?
 - f. Community Vaccination Resources
 - i. The COVID 19 Vaccine and Children: A conversation with Dr. Ben Danielson
 - ii. Black Health Matters Vaccination Information
 - iii. COVID-19 Vaccination: Muslim FAQ
 - iv. COVID-19 Vaccination: A Community Conversation
 - v. My COVID-19 Vaccination Experience Videos
 - vi. What Can Teens Expect when Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
2. Guidance Updates
 - a. *UPDATED* – CDC Guidance for Operating Youth Camps
 - b. King County Local Health Officer Indoor Mask Directive
3. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
4. Learn to Return School Testing Program Expansion
5. Webinar – Updates on COVID-19 and Back to School Guidance
6. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours – Ending June 10th

1. Vaccination Updates

a. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community

People who are fully vaccinated are at a low risk of symptomatic or severe COVID-19 infection, and a growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others. The Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for young people aged 12-15 –and **vaccine supply remains plentiful**. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available for individuals over 18.

Public Health knows that parents, families, and other caregivers may have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccines and children. We know that schools and childcare providers are trusted resources in our community. Schools can increase vaccine uptake by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, promoting vaccination and establishing vaccine supportive policies and practices. Remind families that in addition to COVID-19 vaccination, children and adolescents should continue to get all recommended routine and catch-up vaccinations to protect themselves, peers and staff from other vaccine preventable diseases.

The following are resources to share with students, families, staff and community members.

- [What Parents Should Know About Vaccination for 12-15 Year Olds](#) (Public Health Insider Blog)
- Public Health [Vaccine FAQ page](#).
- CDC [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Child Care Providers](#)
- Request a training, Town Hall Forum, Q&A session or other education and engagement option to discuss COVID-19, Vaccines and Young people by contacting schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov

b. King County Vaccination Data Dashboard

Curious how vaccination efforts are going? Public Health's data dashboards just updated the [vaccination summary](#), enabling views of more age groupings, race, and geography . We are excited to share that as of June 3, 74.6% of King County residents 16 years or older have received at least 1 dose, and 53.4% of all King County 12-19-year olds have received at least one dose!

King County is on track to meet our goal of vaccinating 70% of eligible county residents by the end of June. Keep an eye on the dashboard to see how these numbers grow with increased vaccination efforts for young people!

c. Reports of Myocarditis following Vaccination

The Washington DOH has received reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation in the lining of the heart) in people who have been vaccinated for COVID-19. Medical professionals see these conditions every year, though they are not common, and they are most often caused by a viral infection. The number of cases reported is within the number seen within a typical year, but as a precaution, officials are looking into the reported cases. *At this time, no link has been found between COVID-19 vaccines and these cases.*

CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for people 12 years and older. Since the cases are mostly mild, the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccines still far

outweigh the rare, possible risk of heart complications. COVID-19 is still considered a much higher risk for serious illness, hospitalization, and death, including for young people. The [CDC has posted more information on their website](#) that describes national cases under investigation, recommends those 12 & up continue to get vaccinated, and explains how the CDC monitors vaccine safety.

d. Vaccination Events

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 with written or verbal permission from a legal guardian. Check out [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens - King County](#) for the latest information about youth and vaccines, including minor consent processes.

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.

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

i. Youth Vaccination Now Available at More Pharmacies

Thanks to an increase in vaccine doses available through the Retail Federal Pharmacy Partnership, more retail pharmacies now have the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine available for anyone 12 or older to be vaccinated – including Costco, Albertson’s, Walgreens, and Rite-Aid. Youth under 18 need consent from a legal guardian, and policies about appointments and youth vaccination will vary by provider.

ii. King County Community Vaccination Event Calendar

PHSKC now has a [google calendar](#) to amplify opportunities for community members to get vaccinated at events closer to home. If you are offering a community vaccination event and would like us to share information about it on [this calendar](#) please send the event name, date, location, type of vaccine, appointment or walk-in, and any other pertinent details to liaalexander@kingcounty.gov.

iii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites- Kent and Auburn

King County’s high-volume vaccination sites at Kent accesso ShoWare and the Auburn Outlet Mall are open for appointments and walk-in. Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available.

[Register here](#) for appointments, and walk-in vaccination is also available! Car side vaccination is now available at the Auburn high-volume vaccination site on Mondays. Please share this flyer - [Get your COVID-19 vaccine today. No appointment needed! \(kingcounty.gov\)](#)

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](#).

e. Vaccination Side Effect or COVID Symptom?

With more students receiving vaccines, questions have come up about if individuals need to quarantine if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 soon after receiving a vaccination. Students may return to

school and *not* quarantine if they have symptoms of COVID-19 within a few days of vaccine administration, **IF:**

- They **have not** been in contact with someone with COVID-19 **AND**
- They feel well enough and are willing to perform normal activities **AND**
- They do not have a fever **AND**
- Signs and symptoms are **limited only** to those observed following COVID-19 vaccination (including pain, swelling, tiredness, chills, headache – [see a list of symptoms](#)) **AND**
- They **do not** have other signs and symptoms of COVID-19, such a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or change in smell and taste.

Public Health provides information on this and other frequently asked questions on our [Vaccine FAQ page](#). DOH has a [helpful chart](#) to help differentiate between common side effects and symptoms but should be used in conjunction with the criteria above.

f. [Community vaccination resources](#)

- [The COVID-19 Vaccine & Children](#): A conversation with Dr. Ben Danielson, pediatrician at UW Medicine, and community leaders from Centro Cultural Mexicano, Immigrant Women’s Community Center, and CISC, Thursday, June 17, 6–7:30 PM
- [Black Health Matters - Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle](#): Resources and a guide about vaccination for Black communities.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Muslim FAQs - Muslim Community and Neighborhood Association](#): Recording of a panel with local Imams, the Washington State Secretary of Health and other public health experts answering questions about COVID-19 vaccine.
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- [My COVID-19 Vaccine Experience Videos](#): These [short videos](#) share personal experiences and decision-making related to receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine. The videos can also be accessed through a [YouTube playlist](#).
- [What Can Teens Expect when Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine?:](#) This handout from the Vaccine Maker’s Project can be photocopied and

handed out to help young people understand and make an informed decision about getting vaccinated for COVID-19.

2. Guidance Updates

On May 13, the CDC issued [updated guidance](#) on masks for fully vaccinated individuals, and Governor Inslee [modified Washington's mask mandate](#) to align more closely with some of this guidance, along with setting a goal of fully reopening the state by June 30, 2021. The Governor's announcement, allowing for fully vaccinated people to participate in many activities without face coverings, *does not include school or child care settings*. Where guidance documents may conflict, local guidance (State level) should be utilized.

a. **UPDATED – CDC Guidance for Operating Youth Camps**

On May 28th, CDC updated its guidance on operating youth camp programs, including:

- Updated guidance on outdoor mask usage
- Guidance for camps where everyone is fully vaccinated
- Information on choosing safer activities
- Updated information on trips outside of camp

The full guidance document, including all recent updates, can be accessed on the CDC website at [this link](#). Camps located in Washington state should follow guidance from the State Department of Health.

b. **King County Local Health Officer Indoor Masking Directive**

King County Health Officer, Dr. Jeff Duchin, issued a local health directive strongly encouraging all King County residents – vaccinated or not – to continue wearing masks in indoor public areas. King County residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks in public settings such as:

- Retail and grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Government buildings
- Offices and other places of employment that are open to the public

The directive also underscores that all residents must continue to use masks in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, **schools and childcare settings**, public transportation, and healthcare settings. More information on the local health directive can be found at www.kingcounty.gov/masks. The Directive will remain in effect until 70% or more of adults 16 years of age and older are fully vaccinated in King County.

Please see the attached “Mask Up While We Vaccinate” poster and an FAQ document about the directive for additional information.

3. 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 community transmission. The following data are current as of **June 3, 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	105.0/100K	N
Test Positivity Rate ³	3.9%	N

4. Learn to Return – School Testing Partnership Information

The *Learn to Return* COVID-19 testing program started as a 13-school district pilot and has expanded to over 100 school districts. There is now new funding to support this project through President Biden’s American Relief Package, allowing the Washington State Department of Health to support both diagnostic and screening testing for all students and staff through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. To learn more about the Learn to Return program and how your district can get involved, check out the attached flyer or contact schools@healthcommonsproject.org

5. WEBINAR: Updates on COVID-19 and Back to School Guidance

Puget Sound Educational Service District is hosting a webinar discussing the most current guidance on K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year. Join Nancy Bernard, Program Manager, Washington State Department of Health and Elizabeth Jakob, Industrial Hygienist, Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust as they expand on key points and offer a Q&A session.

Tuesday June 22, 2021

10:00-11:00am, PDT

[Register Now!](#)

6. 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.

Task Force Office Hours will end for the 2020-2021 school year on June 10th, 2021. The School Response [e-mail](#) will continue to be available throughout the summer to answer questions.

****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,

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3. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
4. Resources from the Children's Environmental Health Network
5. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation

1. Vaccination Updates

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a. **UPDATED** – King County Guidance for Childcare Administrators

A number of resource and support documents on the Guidance for Childcare Administrators page, including checklists, flowcharts and return to work guidance, has been updated to align with most recent recommendations and reflect changes for fully vaccinated individuals. All documents can be accessed online [here](#).

b. **UPDATED** – CDC Guidance for Operating Youth Camps

On May 28th, CDC updated its guidance on operating youth camp programs, including:

- Updated guidance on outdoor mask usage
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The full guidance document, including all recent updates, can be accessed on the CDC website at [this link](#).

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- Offices and other places of employment that are open to the public

The directive also underscores that all residents must continue to use masks in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, **schools and childcare settings**, public transportation, and healthcare settings. More information on the local health directive can be found on [King County's website](#).

3. 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](#).

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](#).

5. 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](#).

In health,

The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force