

Sector Email 5.14.2021

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

Schools

Dear school partners,

Students over 12 are now officially eligible to receive the two dose Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine! While there are many different places where youth can be vaccinated, keep your eyes out for some special events catering to families and young people and please share these opportunities with your communities!

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. Vaccination Updates
 - a. Vaccination Now Available for 12-15 Year Olds
 - b. Vaccination Events, Opportunities and Partnerships
 - i. School District Partnerships
 - ii. Bellevue YMCA Family Vaccination Event
 - iii. World Relief & Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Event in Kent
 - iv. Neighborhood House High Point Vaccine Clinic
 - v. Family Vaccination Events at Lumen Field
 - vi. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
 - c. Vaccination Data Dashboard
 - d. Vaccination Side Effect or COVID Symptom?
2. Updated Guidance from CDC and Governor – What Does This Mean for Schools and Child Care?
3. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
4. Department of Health School Guidance for Fall 2021
5. King County K-12 Schools Toolkit Updated
6. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools
7. Please Share with Your Communities
 - a. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
 - b. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation
8. COVID-19 & How to Improve Indoor Air Quality
9. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

1. Vaccination Updates

- a. Vaccination Now Available for 12-15 Year Old Youth!**

This week, the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved for young people aged 12-15 – this vaccine is now available for everyone over the age of 12 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. Please feel free to share some of the following resources about vaccination, and reach out for other support.

- [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

a. Vaccination Events, Opportunities and School Partnerships

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. 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. King County School District Vaccine Partnerships

Many school districts in King County have partnered with vaccine providers to offer special opportunities for young people and their families to be vaccinated. The following are some of the special events, pop up clinics and school-based opportunities that are currently available. Please share this events with your community! If you would like us to add your vaccination event to our list, please share the information with schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov, and check with your district for events not listed here.

ii. Bellevue YMCA Family Vaccination Event

First Dose Clinics – Wednesday, May 19th 1pm-7pm & Wednesday, May 26th 1pm-7pm

Second Dose Clinics – Wednesday, June 9th 1pm-7pm & Wednesday, June 16th 1pm-7pm

Bellevue Family YMCA – 14230 Bel-Red Rd. Bellevue, WA 98007

Register at <http://bit.ly/BellevueYVaccine>, e-mail name and preferred date to vaccine@seattleyymca.org or by calling (206) 382-5000 (press 8 to speak to a staff member)

iii. World Relief & Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Vaccination Event – Kent Hillside Church

Sunday, May 16th

Schedule an appointment, or walk up – for anyone 12 and older. Anyone under 18 will need a parent/guardian signature or their guardian must be accessible by phone during the event.

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/hca2hb5u>, call (253) 234-5770, or text VACCINE SIGN UP to (253) 234-5770

iv. Neighborhood House High Point Vaccine Clinic

Sunday, May 16th at Neighborhood House High Point in West Seattle – 6400 Sylvan Way SW, Seattle, WA 98126.

For more information and to register, please [visit this link](#).

v. Family Vaccination Day Events at Lumen Field

Wednesday May 19th and Saturday May 22nd – more information about special opportunities and family fun to come! More information about Lumen Field vaccination events can be [found here](#).

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

Kent ShoWare Family Vaccination Event – Sunday, May 16th 9am-4pm

Featuring live outdoor music, buttons designed by local artists and other family fun!

King County’s high-volume vaccination sites at Kent access 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](#)

b. King County Vaccination Data Dashboard

Curious how vaccination efforts are going? Public Health’s data dashboards include a [vaccination summary](#) that is updated daily. We are excited to share that as of May 6, 67.5% of King County Residents 16 years or older have received at least 1 dose, and 43.3% of 16 and 17 year olds with at least 1 dose! Keep an eye on the dashboard to see how these numbers grow with increased vaccination efforts for young people!

c. 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.

2. Updated Guidance from CDC and Governor – What Does This Mean for Schools and Child Care?

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 settings*. The DOH K-12 guidance continues to mandate the use of well fitting face coverings for all school and child care staff and students.

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 high community transmission. The following data are current as of **April 28, 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	239.5/100K	Y
Test Positivity Rate ³	4.4%	N

4. Department of Health School Guidance for Fall 2021

On May 13, DOH released guidance for the 2021-2022 school year to support schools in preparing for in-person learning in the fall. Current guidance remains in place for the remainder of the school year. The guidance can be [found here](#), and requires schools to offer full time in-person learning, and provides specific information covering the following topics:

- Face coverings
- Ventilation
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Responding to cases
- Meeting reporting requirements
- Information on extracurricular activities

5. Public Health K-12 Schools Toolkit Updated

Public Health – Seattle & King County's [K-12 Schools Toolkit](#) is now updated to reflect changes to guidance from DOH on fully vaccinated individuals, including quarantine recommendations and symptom screening.

6. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools

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](#)

7. 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](#).

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. 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,

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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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