

## Sector Email 5.21.2021

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

### Schools

Dear ~~school~~ child care partners,

~~The end of the school year is in sight! Just a few more weeks until one of the most challenging school years on record comes to a close!~~

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

1. Vaccination Updates
  - a. Vaccination Available for All Washington Residents 12+
  - b. Vaccination Events
    - i. King County Community Vaccination Event Calendar
    - ii. Bellevue YMCA Family Vaccination Event
    - iii. Lumen Field Event Center Youth Focused Pop Ups
    - iv. ULMS Employment Fair and Vaccination Clinic
    - v. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
  - c. Vaccination Data Dashboard
  - d. Vaccination Side Effect or COVID Symptom?
  - e. Youth Link COVID Vaccination Information Session
2. Guidance Updates
  - a. King County Local Health Officer Indoor Mask Directive
  - b. *UPDATED* – CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools
  - c. *UPDATED* – DOH Symptom Management Flowchart
  - d. OSPI FAQ for Fall 2021
3. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
4. Department of Health School Guidance for Fall 2021
5. Please Share with Your Communities
  - a. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
  - b. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation
6. COVID-19 & How to Improve Indoor Air Quality
7. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

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1. Vaccination Updates
  - a. **Vaccination is available for all Washington Residents over age 12**

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. 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](mailto:schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov)

## **b. 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. 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](mailto:liaalexander@kingcounty.gov).

### **ii. Bellevue YMCA Family Vaccination Event**

First Dose Clinics – Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 1pm-7pm

Second Dose Clinics – Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm-7pm & Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 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@seattleymca.org](mailto:vaccine@seattleymca.org) or by calling (206) 382-5000 (press 8 to speak to a staff member)

### **iii. Lumen Field Event Center Youth-Focused Pop-Ups**

Pediatric clinicians will be administering the vaccinations at this site and special Seattle Seahawks programming will be available for kids and families. Open to Caregivers, families, and students ages 12+ with parental consent. More information available at [this link](#).

Saturday, May 22, 11:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Location: [800 Occidental Ave S, Seattle WA 98134](#)

#### **iv. Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle Employment Fair + Vaccine Clinic**

Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 11am - 3pm

Bailey Gatzert Elementary School

There will be on-the-spot job interviews, community resources, vaccinations, and great food from the Where Ya At Matt Food Truck. Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines will be available to anyone 12+ - no appointment is needed. More information is available at [www.urbanleague.org](http://www.urbanleague.org)

#### **v. 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](#).

#### **c. 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!

#### **d. 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.

#### e. Youth Link COVID Vaccine Info Session

Youth Link COVID Support Action Team will be hosting an informational session covering current COVID virus information, how the COVID vaccines work, possible side effects, and will answer questions and concerns and provide available resources – **May 28<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-7pm**

**Pre-registration is required** via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/worth-a-shot-raisingawareness-about-the-covid-19-vaccine-tickets-148232514441>

**For more information**, please contact our Bellevue Youth Link office at 425-452-5254 or email Patrick Alina, Youth Link Program Coordinator, at [palina@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:palina@bellevuewa.gov)

## 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*.

#### a. **NEW - King County Local Health Officer Indoor Masking Directive**

On May 20, 2021, 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 on [King County's website](#).

**b. UPDATED – CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools**

Over the weekend, the CDC updated it's [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#) to clarify that schools should continue to use current COVID-19 prevention strategies – including *universal and correct use of masks* and physical distancing. [CDC guidance for childcare](#) remains unchanged and includes universal masking. [CDC Summer camp guidance](#) was updated on April 24<sup>th</sup> and continues to encourage masking for all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

**c. UPDATED – DOH Symptom Management Flowchart**

The Department of Health has updated their [symptom management flowchart](#) and evaluation and management of COVID-19 symptoms document to reflect the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals. [Public Health's K-12 toolkit](#) also reflects these updates.

**d. OSPI Frequently Asked Questions for Fall 2021**

OSPI has provided a document with answers to frequently asked questions about in-person and remote instruction for Fall 2021. This includes information about mandatory vaccination for students, in-person learning, and health and safety expectations. The [FAQ Document](#) is available on OSPI's website.

**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 **May 10, 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>	200.4/100K	<b>Y</b>
Test Positivity Rate <sup>3</sup>	4.4%	<b>N</b>

**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 sets the stage for 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. 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](#).

## 6. 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).

## 7. 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.

**Task Force Office Hours will end for the 2020-2021 school year on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**\*\*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

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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](#).

### **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](#).

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