

## Sector Email 5.27.2021

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

### Schools

Dear school sector partners,

Thanks to the incredible partnerships between public health, schools, and vaccination providers, nearly half of all 12-19-year-old residents in King County have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine! Thank you for your ongoing support in getting information and resources to your communities!

**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 Data Dashboard
  - c. Reports of Myocarditis Following Vaccination
  - d. Vaccination Events
    - i. King County Community Vaccination Event Calendar
    - ii. Alliance of People with Disabilities Pop Up Clinic
    - iii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
  - e. Vaccination Side Effect or COVID Symptom?
  - f. Community Vaccination Resources
    - i. YouthLink COVID Vaccination Info Session
    - ii. Eckstein Middle School Students Interview Dr. Helen Chu
    - iii. Black Health Matters Vaccination Information
    - iv. COVID-19 Vaccination: Muslim FAQ
    - v. COVID-19 Vaccination: A Community Conversation
    - vi. My COVID-19 Vaccination Experience Videos
    - vii. What Can Teens Expect when Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
2. Guidance Updates
  - a. Guidance Updates from Labor & Industries
  - b. King County Local Health Officer Indoor Mask Directive
  - c. *UPDATED* – DOH K12 Guidance (2020-2021)
3. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
4. Webinar – Updates on COVID-19 and Back to School Guidance
5. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours – Ending June 10<sup>th</sup>

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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. 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 May 26, 74.5% of King County residents 16 years or older have received at least 1 dose, and 49.5% 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. 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. Alliance of People with Disabilities Pop Up Clinic**

Saturday June 5, 10am-1pm

Offering the Pfizer vaccine for people 12 and older with disabilities as well as their families and caregivers. This is a low-sensory clinic, and ASL interpretation will be provided. Register at this [link](#), and note any additional accommodations requested. For questions, contact [kayla@disabilitypride.org](mailto:kayla@disabilitypride.org)

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

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](#).

#### **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. [Community vaccination resources](#)

i. **Youth Link COVID Vaccine Info Session – TODAY!**

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)

ii. [Eckstein Middle School Students Interview Dr. Helen Chu about COVID-19 and Vaccines](#)

This brief episode of the podcast “Hear Our Voices” features middle school students from Eckstein Middle School in Seattle asking their own questions of Dr. Helen Chu.

iii. [Black Health Matters - Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle](#)

Resources and guide about vaccination for Black communities.

iv. [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.

v. [COVID-19 Vaccines: A Community Conversation](#)

Watch a panel discussion hosted by Naisha Williams - Lead for COVID Vaccination in BIPOC Communities for Public Health - Seattle & King County and Q&A with local leaders.

vi. [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](#).

vii. [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*.

### **a. Guidance Updates from Labor & Industries**

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries has issued updated guidance regarding masking and distancing at places of employment. Like other recently updated guidance, the L & I document specifically *exempt* K-12 schools, child care facilities and summer camps (along with some additional locations) from this updated guidance. General Coronavirus Prevention guidance can be accessed [here](#), guidance specific to face coverings is available at this [link](#) and an FAQ about the updated guidance is available [here](#).

Schools should refer to the [Employer Health and Safety Requirements for School Scenarios](#), updated on March 25, 2021, for guidance specific to K-12 school staff.

### **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](http://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.

### **c. Updated – DOH K-12 Guidance (2020-2021)**

DOH has updated its K-12 Guidance with the following changes:

- Screening questions now account for fully vaccinated individuals

- Clarification that all performing arts physical distancing must follow the [Governor’s Theater and Performing Arts Guidance](#) requirements.
- Updated information on when to consider closure in the event of an outbreak.

The full guidance is available [here](#).

### 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 26, 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>	147.5/100K	N
Test Positivity Rate <sup>3</sup>	5%	N

### 4. 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 on the Governor-approved document that you can access here: [Corona Virus K-12 Schools](#)

Tuesday June 22, 2021

10:00-11:00am, PDT

**[Register Now!](#)**

### 5. 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. 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*

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## Childcare

Dear childcare partners,

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4. Resources from the Children's Environmental Health Network
5. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine and Isolation

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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*