

Sector Email 5.7.2021

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

Schools

Dear school partners,

Governor Inslee announced a two week pause in Health Washington Roadmap to Recovery process, keeping King County in phase 3. This two week pause is an opportunity for us to get as many people as possible vaccinated so we can move past the current surge of cases and continue back to a downward trend!

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. Key Indicators of COVID-19 Activity
2. Physical Distancing in Schools during High Community Transmission
3. King County Remains in Healthy Washington Phase 3 – What Does this Mean?
4. Updated Guidance from DOH on Spectator Events – For Graduation Ceremonies
5. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools
6. Vaccine Updates
 - a. Getting Vaccinated
 - b. Supporting Vaccination in Your Community
 - c. Vaccination Events and Opportunities
 - i. Bellevue Fire Department Vaccine Pop Up Clinics
 - ii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites
 - iii. Shoreline Vaccine Site
 - iv. In Home Vaccination
7. Please Share with Your Community
 - a. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
 - b. Household and Food Assistance for Quarantine
8. COVID-19 and How to Improve Indoor Air Quality
9. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

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 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	249.7/100K	Y
Test Positivity Rate ³	4.4%	N

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. King County Remains in Healthy Washington Phase 3 – What Does This Mean?

On Tuesday, May 4, Governor Inslee paused the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery Phase determination process for two weeks, keeping King County in Phase 3, despite current case rates. This pause comes after rising case rates have begun, this week, to level off – suggesting we may be turning a corner on the current surge of cases. What does this pause mean for us? How can we use this pause to decrease cases even further? Check out [Public Health’s latest blog](#) post to learn more about this opportunity to bring case rates down even further.

4. Updated Guidance from DOH on Spectator Events – for Graduation Ceremonies

The Department of Health has updated its [guidance for Spectator Events](#) to include sections for vaccinated individuals, including how these sections should be created and monitored. Additionally, school graduation ceremonies and commencement ceremonies may utilize Phase 3 Spectator Events guidance in Phase 2, if they operate under an event health and safety plan for the graduation ceremony. All other aspects of school graduations and commencement ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance, [located here](#).

5. Healthy Washington Guidance Documents for Schools

King County remains in Phase 3 of Governor Inslee’s [Healthy Washington: Roadmap to Recovery](#). 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

All Washington residents 16+ are eligible to be vaccinated **and vaccine supply is plentiful!** 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. Check out [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens - King County](#) for the latest information about youth and vaccines, including minor consent processes.

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!

- 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 Youth - from the [Public Health COVID-19 Speakers Bureau](#)*

c. Vaccination Events and Opportunities

i. Bellevue Fire Department Pop Up Vaccination Clinics

As part of a county effort to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to more people, a Bellevue Fire Department mobile vaccination team will open pop-up clinics at busy locations around the city. Three pop-ups are scheduled, each open 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Open for walk-ups for anyone 18 and older.

- **Wednesday, May 12:** Crossroads Park
- **Friday, May 14:** Crossroads Park

More information is available [here](#).

ii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites

Car side vaccination is now available at the Auburn high-volume vaccination site! Walk in appointments available at ALL King County vaccination sites – including high volume sites and public health clinics! Please share this flyer - [Get your COVID-19 vaccine today. No appointment needed! \(kingcounty.gov\)](#)

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](#)

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.

- The mobile team can also vaccinate any family members or caregivers in the home who are over age 18 and have not yet been vaccinated.
- No proof of medical need or residency is required. No ID of any sort required.
- Individuals who have a lack of appropriate transportation but are otherwise mobile do not qualify for this program.
- We cannot guarantee a choice of specific vaccine for first-dose appointments. Currently most in-home appointments will be for Moderna vaccine. Youth ages 16 or 17 who are homebound can be accommodated and will get Pfizer vaccine.
- Interpreters are available.

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,

This week's Public Health — Seattle & King County (PHSKC) Schools and Child care Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

1. 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
2. Updated Masking Guidance from CDC – What does this mean for schools and child care providers?
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. Vaccine updates

- a. Getting Vaccinated

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type of vaccine being provided so that 16 & 17 year old youth and their families can confirm the provider carried Pfizer BioNTech when scheduling.

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- Request a training from the [Public Health COVID-19 Speakers Bureau](#)

c. Vaccination Events and Opportunities

i. Bellevue Fire Department Pop Up Vaccination Clinics

As part of a county effort to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to more people, a Bellevue Fire Department mobile vaccination team will open pop-up clinics at busy locations around the city. Three pop-ups are scheduled, each open 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Open for walk-ups for anyone 18 and older.

- **Friday, May 7:** Downtown Park
- **Wednesday, May 12:** Crossroads Park
- **Friday, May 14:** Crossroads Park

More information is available [here](#).

ii. King County Public Health High Volume Vaccination Sites

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- We cannot guarantee a choice of specific vaccine for first-dose appointments. Currently most in home appointments will be for Moderna vaccine. Youth ages 16 or 17 who are homebound can be accommodated and will get Pfizer vaccine.
- Interpreters are available.

2. 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.

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

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