

Dear school partners,

We hope those still in “the office” (virtually or otherwise) have some time scheduled away from work to rest and rejuvenate before we head into 2021. We see how hard you all have worked this year and share our immense gratitude.

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

1. Key indicators of COVID-19 activity
2. COVID-19 consumer protection resources
3. Training opportunities
4. Mental health resources
5. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators’ contact info with PHSKC

### 1. Key indicators of COVID-19 activity

The following chart includes King County data aligned with key indicators of COVID-19 activity outlined in the document titled [Tools to Prepare for Provision of In-Person Learning among K-12 Students at Public and Private Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) released by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The following are data as of **December 22, 2020**. These data are available and regularly updated on the PHSKC [COVID-19 data dashboard webpage](#).

<b>Current King County COVID-19 Activity Level:</b>		<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Education Modality:</b>	<b>Phase in in-person learning in groups of 15 or fewer students for pre-K through grade 5 and those with highest needs.</b>  Prioritize Pre-K through grade 3, and students in any grade with disabilities, students living homeless, or those farthest from educational justice.  If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add grades 4-5.	
<b>Extracurricular:</b>	Cancel or postpone most in-person extra-curricular activities except those allowed under Safe Start and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.	
<b>Transition:</b>	<b>Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When trends in cases and hospitalizations are flat or decreasing, and the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, expand access to in-person learning</li><li>• When trends are increasing, pause expansion of additional in-person learning and maintain access to in-person learning for those who have it. Schools are not required to reduce in-person learning or revert to remote learning based on metrics if the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment.</li><li>• Consider other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families At any COVID-19 level, transition temporarily to full distance learning for 14 days when school meets criteria in</li></ul>	

DOH's K-12 Health and Safety Guidance (p 16) or on recommendation of the local health officer.

<b>Activity Level Key:</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>
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Indicator	Target/Range		Current Status
Cases/100K/14 days <sup>1</sup>	<b>High</b>	>350 cases/100K/14 days	<a href="#">378 cases/100K/14 days</a>
	<b>Moderate</b>	50-350 cases/100K/14 days	
	<b>Low</b>	<50 cases/100K/14 days	
Trend in cases and hospitalizations <sup>2</sup>			Cases: <a href="#">Increasing</a> Hospitalizations: <a href="#">Increasing</a>
Test positivity <sup>3</sup>	<b>High</b>	>10%	<a href="#">9.4%</a> <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Moderate</b>	5-10%	
	<b>Low</b>	<5%	

<sup>1</sup>Total number of cases for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents.

<sup>2</sup>Total number of cases for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents **AND** Rate hospitalization per 100,000 residents in the past 14 days compared to the prior 14 days.

<sup>3</sup>Percent of COVID-19 tests with positive results over the past 14 days—**WA State Department of Health has resumed reporting on negative laboratory results. There remains a large backlog of negative lab results that have not been processed (about 100,000 negative lab results). The count of people tested and all test results is underestimated as WA DOH processes this backlog. As a result, the test positivity reported on this dashboard are overestimated, especially in the most recent week.**

## 2. COVID-19 consumer protection resources

As part of the larger COVID-19 Language Access Plan for state government, the Department of Financial Institutions now has COVID-19 Consumer Protection Resource Sheets available in 36 languages. [COVID-19 Consumer Protection Resource Sheets Translated In 36 Languages \(wa.gov\)](#). These will also be cross-linked from coronavirus.wa.gov. The sheets have information about mortgage assistance, student loans, and scams/fraud. They have telephonic interpretation services set up for all hotlines.

## 3. Training opportunities

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced a number of webinars that may of be use to K-12 staff and administrators planning for and supporting COVID-19 response. See below for recent webinars available on the EPA website:

- [Indoor Air Quality in K-12 Schools: Addressing the Concept of Layered Risk Amidst COVID-19](#)
- [Meeting Current School Health Challenges and Beyond: New Tools to Assess and Address IAQ Healthy and Safety](#)

## 4. Mental health resources

The Postcard Project is a collaboration among the Reconnect to Opportunity internship program, the Community Well-Being group of King County's COVID response, and Seattle Children's Community Health and Benefit. The founders of the Project recognize that being seen, feeling cared for, and receiving positive thoughts help us all weather hard times. So they engaged young people from the community to design postcards to which community members can add handwritten messages of caring to increase hope and inspiration.

If you or your colleagues want to participate in this project by sending postcards, please contact [wellbeing@kingcounty.gov](mailto:wellbeing@kingcounty.gov). Attached are a letter about the project and the final postcard designs. Postcards and stamps can be delivered to people who want to write them.



Postcards Project  
Letter.pdf



FINAL The Postcard  
Project 6inx4in (002).p

**5. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators' contact info with PHSKC**

To ensure that we are reaching staff critical to your schools' COVID response efforts, [please respond to this survey](#) to provide their names and contact information. This will be helpful in our ongoing efforts to keep you and your staff informed and updated during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also facilitate easier follow-up and collaboration when cases are reported in your buildings. Thank you for taking the time to respond!

*In health,*

*The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force*