

Dear school partners,

We hope you enjoyed a pleasant long weekend!

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. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators’ contact info with PHSKC
3. Registration open! Webinar on disinfection, ventilation, and filtration in K-12 schools
4. DOH announces Exposure Notifications
5. Public Health releases Exposure Report
6. COVID vaccine website
7. Upcoming events: Insurance enrollment and flu shot clinics
8. Mental health resources
  - a. Vera Project: Safe in Sound

**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 [Decision Tree 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 2, 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>	Strongly recommend distance learning with the option for limited in-person learning in small groups, or cohorts, of students for the highest need students, such as students with disabilities, students living homeless, those farthest from educational justice, and younger learners.	
<b>Extracurricular:</b>	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing most in person extracurricular activities, including sports, performances, clubs, events, etc. with the option to allow extracurricular activities in small groups of 6 or fewer students.	

<b>Activity Level Key:</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>
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<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target/Range</b>		<b>Current Status</b>
Cases/100K/14 days <sup>1</sup>	<b>High</b>	>75 cases/100K/14 days	<a href="#">407 cases/100K/14 days</a>
	<b>Moderate</b>	25-75 cases/100K/14 days	
	<b>Low</b>	<25 cases/100K/14 days	
Trend in cases and hospitalizations <sup>2</sup>	Flat or decreasing		Cases: <a href="#">Increasing</a> Hospitalizations: <a href="#">Increasing</a>
Test positivity <sup>3</sup>	<5%		<b>Unavailable<sup>3</sup></b>

<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—**On November 21, the WA State Department of Health paused reporting on negative laboratory results. Data on test results, people tested, and test positivity has been frozen on our dashboard through November 21.**

## **2. 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!

## **3. Registration open! Webinar on disinfection, ventilation, and filtration in K-12 schools**

[Please register](#) for this upcoming webinar that PHSKC is hosting in partnership with the Department of Health:

- **Title:** COVID-19 Disinfection & the New Ventilation/Filtration Guidance for K-12 Schools **Date/Time:** Monday, December 7, 2020 / 10-11:30AM
- **Description:** Please join us for a presentation and question-and-answer session with Nancy Bernard, MPH, REHS, CPSI, manager of Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) Indoor Air Quality and School Environmental Health and Safety Programs. Nancy will discuss safer practices for disinfection in K-12 schools during the COVID pandemic and address some of the issues/health reactions being reported. She will also review the updated DOH guidance on [Ventilation and Air Quality for Reducing Transmission of COVID-19](#).
- [Click here to register](#)

*(The Environmental Protection Agency also continues to host and share webinars and related resources supporting healthy indoor air quality in schools. [Check them out!](#))*

## **4. DOH announces Exposure Notifications**

*Please share with your networks!* DOH [announced](#) the release of Washington Exposure Notifications (also known as **WA Notify**), a new tool that works through smartphones, without sharing any personal information, to alert users if they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is completely private, and doesn't know or track who you are or where you go.

Learn how it works, how it helps, and see frequently asked questions at [WAnotify.org](#). Please encourage your staff and families to register.

## **5. Public Health releases Exposure Report**

For many communities of color and for communities in south King County – who have been suffering from higher rates of COVID-19 [since last spring](#) – a new report shows additional differences by race and geography.

The [new report on outbreaks and exposure settings](#) from PHSKC describes where people may have become infected with the novel coronavirus. The data reflect that in communities with higher rates of COVID-19, workplaces and households are more frequently reported as a potential exposure setting, in addition to community or social gatherings. This helps show why it's important that

[employers take steps](#) to help protect workers and that everyone takes steps to reduce their risk and COVID-19 spread in the community.

Racial inequities discussed in this report are rooted in factors such as work, housing, healthcare access, and wealth – factors impacted by structural racism that require deep investment and commitment to address. These inequities are major drivers of where people live and work – and the fact that not everyone has the same options to limit their exposure to the coronavirus.

Please see an [introduction to the report in our blog](#) and a detailed discussion of the report [in our companion blog](#).

## 6. COVID vaccine website

PHSKC has launched a new webpage about COVID-19 vaccine. This [webpage](#) includes information about vaccine development, safety, expected availability and supply as well as a link to information for healthcare providers and community partners. This page is available in 18 languages. Updates about the COVID-19 vaccine will be posted to this site as we have more information available.

## 7. Upcoming events: Insurance enrollment and flu shot clinics

*Please share with your networks!* PHSKC Black Equity Project is hosting a series of events in December (in Skyway, Federal Way, and Tukwila) to help King County residents:

- Enroll in health insurance
- Get a flu shot
- Sign up for [ORCA Lift](#)
- Get a mammogram
- Get tested for COVID-19



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PH-fluequity\_flyer\_opt ion3.pdf

See attached flyers for dates, times, and locations.

PHSKC recognizes the important and untold stories of innovation, service, and sacrifice by the black community and supports efforts to improve equity and achieve social justice.

## 8. Mental health resources

### a. Vera Project: Safe in Sound

The Vera Project and PHSKC need your help to keep young people in our shared communities safe and resilient as we all continue to fight this pandemic together.

#SAFEINSOUND, our youth-driven COVID-19 Prevention campaign and concert series kicked off Saturday, November 28 with local musicians and all sorts of educational information and important conversations about public health and safety.

Young people (and others!) can tune in and join us in amplifying all of the vital safety precautions, PSAs, and community resources we'll be sharing throughout the next few weeks. Visit the [Facebook page](#) to learn more and stream the concert series.

*In health,*

*The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force*