

Dear School and Child Care Administrators and Nurses,

We'd like to begin this message by acknowledging the deep pain, frustration, and grief over the police killing of George Floyd and the loss of so many other Black lives through violent and racist acts. We are currently experiencing two monumental public health crises: COVID-19 and the crisis of systemic racism. Both responses are fighting to save lives. We also would like to recognize and honor the work you do to educate our next generation to continue leading our nation on this journey to social justice.

We invite you to visit these links for PHSKC reflections on these issues:

- [COVID-19 and Unrecognized Realities Experienced by Black People](#), by Roi-Martin Brown (Public Health Insider).
- [Answering questions about protests and COVID-19](#) In protests, people are not gathering for the sake of gathering, but are negotiating their own risks to take a stand for justice against racism, violence, and brutality of Black communities (Public Health Insider). *Please note that PHSKC is working on key safety messages for protestors to be released in advance of Friday's statewide day of action. These will be posted very soon in both flyer and blog format.*

Updates:

- 1) The state Department of Health has approved King County's proposal for "modified Phase 1" with limited and/or modified business re-opening. More detail can be found on the County's [Safe Start web page](#).
- 2) PHSKC has updated its [COVID Schools and Child Care site](#) with the following information:
 - Expanded links to state and federal guidance related to K-12 and higher education.
 - [Supplemental graduation guidance](#) for school districts in King County (suitable for modified Phase 1)
 - Additional resources to support safe summer camp operations. *Please note that summer camp programming that serves a predominant function of child care (essential service) is allowed to operate during all Phases of the Safe Start Plan with group sizes limited to less than 10 individuals. The [state-level guidance](#) describes the type of programming that is allowable and not allowable.*
- 3) We are aware that OSPI is planning to release [initial reopening guidance](#) for schools, likely this week. We are preparing to review the plan and identify any gaps or areas that may need local guidance or additional detail to support the safe reopening of schools.

Kind regards,

Public Health – Seattle & King County