

Dear School and Child Care Administrators and Nurses,

We are actively coordinating with national, state, and local agencies to think ahead to school re-opening guidance for when the decision is made to re-open. We recognize that schools need time to plan for re-opening with appropriate health guidance related to social/physical distancing and managing possible infections throughout the academic year.

In the meantime, here are updates that may be helpful as you wrap up this academic year with distance learning.

Updated guidance on child cares

- [CDC guidance on child care](#) was updated most recently on April 16. CDC also issued updated guidance that impacted child cares as well as the general population. PHSKC and WA Department of Health have updated their guidance.
 - [PHSKC Guidance for Child cares](#) – Changes have been made to the child care website and linked documents to reflect updates from CDC and the region’s stage of COVID-19 spread in the community. Key updates include:
 1. Updated list of COVID-19 symptoms
 2. Symptom screening upon arrival for children and staff
 3. Recommendation for children over 2 years of age and staff to wear non-medical face coverings, if feasible
 4. Guidance for temporarily isolating individuals who become symptomatic while in care
 5. Change from 7 to 10 days of isolation for individuals who are showing COVID-19 symptoms or are a confirmed case
 6. Updated notification/reporting guidelines to PHSKC of suspected or confirmed cases (children and staff)
 7. Guidance on option for child cares serving families in essential services to remain open during 14-day symptom watch
 - [DOH Child Care Resources & Recommendations](#)
 - *Please note that you may see differences in the guidance issued by local, state, and national entities. King County is currently more heavily impacted by COVID-19 than many other regions throughout the state and country. Public Health—Seattle & King County's guidance reflects our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our residents in light of our unique local circumstances.*

Other relevant guidance

- [Guidance to Retrieve Items from Schools](#): from Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department
- DOH [COVID-19 Guidance for Legionella and Building Water System Closures](#): Many buildings are closed to the public or have limited access in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Following this DOH guidance will reduce *Legionella* growth and other concerns that occur when building water use decreases.

- DOH Blog: [Talking to kids about schools staying closed](#)
- Resources from the State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
 - OSPI [Bulletin 031-20](#) (Allowable building activities, continuous learning, meals & nutrition, special education, federal funding, COVID-related accounting)
 - [Resources to Support Student Well-Being and School Safety](#)
 - [Supporting Inclusionary Practices During School Facility Closure](#)
 - [Continuous Learning 2020](#)
 - [Supt. Reykdal answers educators' questions](#)

Related COVID-19 news

Washington's Safe Start Plan to Reopen the Economy

Monday, Governor Inslee signed an updated COVID-19 order that allows some businesses to reopen in a gradual, phased approach beginning on May 5. Gov. Inslee extended the stay-at-home order to the end of May, but some restrictions will be lifted as conditions allow. Decisions on the timing of the phases will be based on multiple indicators, available at the state's [COVID-19 Risk assessment dashboard](#). You can find out more about the plan, including which businesses may open on May 5 and in later phases, here:

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartWA_4May20_1pm.pdf

Analysis Shows Pronounced Racial Inequities Among Covid-19 Cases, Hospitalizations And Deaths

Updated data shows that in King County, COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting communities of color. The data shows that rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases for Hispanics, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is four times that of Whites. The rate of confirmed cases for Blacks is double that of Whites. "Race and place are major predictors of underlying health conditions and health outcomes. These systemic inequities play out profoundly with COVID-19, both in terms of who is getting infected and at greater risk for severe complications from COVID-19," said Matías Valenzuela, Equity Director for Public Health – Seattle & King County. The updated analysis reinforces [CDC findings](#) from other metropolitan areas and states across the United States. You can find more information on the [Public Health Insider Blog](#).

COVID-19 Data Dashboards

To improve awareness and transparency about the COVID-19 impacts in King County, Public Health created two data dashboards. The COVID-19 Daily Summary Dashboard provides updated cases, deaths, and demographic data. The COVID-19 Race/Ethnicity Dashboard shows the impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color compared to whites in King County, Washington. Both dashboards can be accessed from this site: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx>

Isolation/Quarantine and Assessment/Recovery Facilities

One of the King County Public Health strategies is to develop and manage Isolation/Quarantine and Assessment and Recovery facilities across the County. These places provide temporary shelter and care for adults who need a safe place to isolate, quarantine, and recover. They help slow the spread of COVID-19 within the community among vulnerable populations and minimize

the strain on our local healthcare facilities. You can learn more about these programs here:
<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/COVID/shelter-response.aspx>

Community Mitigation and Recovery Branch - Sector Specific Task Forces

The Schools and Child Care Task Force is a component of the Community Mitigation and Recovery Branch. The branch is established within the Health and Medical Area Command (HMAC) and includes several task forces to address the needs of different sectors. If stakeholders in your community have questions, they may contact the person listed below for their sector:

Task Force Sector	Task Force Lead	Email address
Behavioral Health	Maureen Horgan	Maureen.Horgan@kingcounty.gov
Business	Shannon Harris	Shannon.Harris@kingcounty.gov
Community Based and Faith Based Orgs (CBOs and FBOs)	Candace Jackson	Candace.Jackson@kingcounty.gov
LGBTQ+	Anthony Rivers	arivers@kingcounty.gov
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Governmental Agencies	Van Badzik	govsectortf@kingcounty.gov
Higher Education	Carrie Cihak	Carrie.Cihak@kingcounty.gov
Housing	Kelly Rider	krider@kingcounty.gov
Older Adult and People w/Disabilities	Nikki Nguyen	nnguyen@kingcounty.gov
Pre K-12 Schools and Childcare Task Force	Priti Mody-Pan	pmodypan@kingcounty.gov
Speakers Bureau	Debra Baker	Debra.Baker@kingcounty.gov
Immigrant & Refugee	Hamdi Mohamed	Hamdi.Mohamed@kingcounty.gov

We encourage you to subscribe to the [Public Health Insider](#) to receive regular updates about the local COVID-19 outbreak and response.

We deeply appreciate the hard work you’re doing to support children and families throughout the region.

Kind regards,

Public Health – Seattle & King County