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](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/index.html)
- **Resources from the State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)**
  - OSPI [Bulletin 031-20](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx) (Allowable building activities, continuous learning, meals & nutrition, special education, federal funding, COVID-related accounting)
  - [Resources to Support Student Well-Being and School Safety](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx)
  - [Supporting Inclusionary Practices During School Facility Closure](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx)
  - [Continuous Learning 2020](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx)
  - [Supt. Reykdal answers educators’ questions](https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx)

**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](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartWA_4May20_1pm.pdf). 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](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 disproportionally 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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) from other metropolitan areas and states across the United States. You can find more information on the [Public Health Insider Blog](https://www.publichealthseattleke.com/)

**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](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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Force Sector</th>
<th>Task Force Lead</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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