

Dear school partners,

Every week seems to add a new challenge to our plates as we continue to support our communities weathering crises such as COVID-19, racism, and, most recently, wildfires. We know this takes an emotional toll not just on the students and families you serve, but on you and your staff as well. Few of us are professionally or personally trained to juggle all of these challenges, but we see and appreciate the incredible efforts you are all putting in to doing so. We're all in this together.

While efforts to produce a web-based dashboard are on hold for right now, this week we will start a consistent, weekly email to schools providing updates on key indicators of community transmission. These emails will include updates and highlights on guidance and resources for schools and families.

This week's topics include:

1. Key indicators of COVID-19 activity
2. Considerations for gradual return to in-person learning
3. PHSKC FAQ updates

1. Key indicators of COVID-19 activity

At this point, you are likely very familiar with 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) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We will use this weekly email to highlight King County's current status on the key indicators outlined in the decision tree. The following is data as of **September 16, 2020**. This data is available and regularly updated on the Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC) [COVID-19 data dashboard webpage](#).

Current King County COVID-19 Activity Level:		MODERATE
Education Modality:	Recommend distance learning as described above. In addition, consider expanding in person learning to elementary students. Over time, consider adding hybrid in person learning for middle or high school students if limited COVID transmission occurs in schools.	
Extracurricular:	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing all in-person extracurricular activities. Consider low risk activities when all students have some level of in person learning	

Activity Level Key:	Low	Moderate	High
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Indicator	Target/Range		Current Status
	High	Moderate	
Cases/100K/14 days ¹	>75 cases/100K/14 days	25-75 cases/100K/14 days	55 cases/100K/14 days
	Moderate	<25 cases/100K/14 days	
	Low		

Trend in cases and hospitalizations ²	Flat or decreasing	Decreasing
Test positivity ³	<5%	2.0%

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

²Total 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.

³Percent of COVID-19 tests with positive results over the past 14 days

2. Considerations for gradual return to in-person learning

Last week King County's case rate dropped to 65 cases/100,000 residents over the previous 14 days. Data shared above shows King County with even lower transmission rates this week. This puts our region in a [moderate range of COVID-19 transmission](#), meaning schools may consider a gradual re-opening for some in-person services. PHSKC Director, Patty Hayes sent an email to Superintendents, school leadership, and stakeholders outlining recommendations and links for information. Additionally, PHSKC's Public Health Insider blog posted an article about [Schools Preparing for a Measured Return to In-Person Learning](#).

3. PHSKC FAQ updates

PHSKC's Schools and Childcare Task Force will continue to update the [Frequently Asked Questions section of our website](#). The most recent update was posted yesterday. As schools gradually phase in some in-person services, we expect additional questions to arise. We encourage school staff to review the following resources for updated information:

- [King County COVID-19 Schools and Childcare website](#)
- [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\) Schools and Childcare Resources and Recommendations](#)
- [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) COVID-19 Resource and Guidance](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership!

PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force