

Dear school partners,

A few weeks into the 2020-21 school year now, we hope that you and your teams are finding your rhythm. We know some of you are actively planning to reintroduce some in-person services and instruction in the next few weeks. We wish you the best and reiterate that we are here to support school leaders during this process.

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. Reopening schools in the moderate phase of transmission
3. “Picture day” during the COVID-19 pandemic
4. Upcoming drive-thru vaccination clinics

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 is data as of **September 23, 2020**. This data is available and regularly updated on the 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
Cases/100K/14 days ¹	High	>75 cases/100K/14 days	51 cases/100K/14 days
	Moderate	25-75 cases/100K/14 days	
	Low	<25 cases/100K/14 days	
Trend in cases and hospitalizations ²	Flat or decreasing		Decreasing
Test positivity ³	<5%		1.9%

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. Reopening schools in the moderate phase of transmission

PHSKC Director Patty Hayes shared an email with school leaders and stakeholders last week after [key indicators of community transmission](#) indicated that King County was moving into a [moderate range of COVID-19 transmission](#). As outlined in the DOH's [Decision Tree for Provision of in Person Learning among Public and Private K-12 Students during COVID-19](#), within this moderate range (25-75 COVID-19 cases/100,000 residents over a 14 day period) schools can begin to consider gradual reopening for some in-person services. We encourage schools to partner with childcare providers to support the evolving needs of families during this period. In her email, Director Hayes shared recommendations from PHSKC and gave links to relevant information.

In addition to Director Hayes' email, we have updated our [FAQs](#) to address some questions about a return to some in-person services and instruction. See FAQ #12 specifically for more information.

3. "Picture day" during the COVID-19 pandemic

School pictures are an annual tradition many families look forward to as they are an opportunity to document their children's growth and milestones. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this tradition may look a little different. Many schools have opted not to host "picture days" in alignment with guidance for schools from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ["limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as possible."](#)

For schools planning to host picture days, PHSKC encourages school staff and photographers to closely review and implement the following [Phase 2 Professional Photography COVID-19 Requirements](#) from the Governor's Office along with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 Planning Guide](#) to support the health and safety of students and staff.

4. Upcoming drive-thru vaccination clinics

PHSKC is organizing two drive-thru clinics at the ShoWare Center on Wednesday, October 7 and Saturday, October 10 in collaboration with the Seattle Visiting Nurse Association (SVNA) and the Kent School District. We will be offering all vaccines required for K-12 school entry (Hep B, Varicella, Polio, MMR, Tdap, DTaP plus flu vaccine to kids ages 4-18). All vaccinations will be provided at no cost and available to all kids regardless of insurance status. SVNA will be providing adult flu (at no cost to uninsured and underinsured community members). The clinics are open to all King County residents.

The [Find a Vaccination Clinic](#) webpage includes an FAQ and also lists other vaccination opportunities, including more drive-thru options from the SVNA, flu clinics from International Community Health Services, and other free childhood immunization clinics.

Our gratitude to you and your staff for the incredible work you are doing to support children and families throughout King County. Your efforts are seen and deeply appreciated.

PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force