

Dear school partners,

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. Updates to PHSKC Childcare guidance
3. Childcare vouchers available through December 2020
4. Halloween and fall holiday tips during the pandemic
5. Employer health & safety requirements for school scenarios

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 30, 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	53 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		Flat/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. Updates to PHSKC Childcare guidance

For those schools and partners providing childcare, the following updates to the [PHSKC Childcare Guidance](#) were released this week:

- Child care providers are considered [essential workers](#) in Washington State. Per [Washington Department of Labor and Industries](#), essential workers who have had close contact with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 are allowed to continue to work during the 14-day symptom watch period. *Children* of essential workers, however, may not remain in childcare during the 14-day symptom watch period and must quarantine at home during this time. See [Administrator Guidance](#) for details.
- To align with [DOH childcare guidance](#), only close contacts of an individual *confirmed* to have COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of their last exposure. Children and staff who are close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms (who has not yet been tested or not confirmed to have the virus) no longer need to be excluded from childcare.
- We have included a new [Exposure Notification Letter](#) for families and staff who are close contacts of an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 which provides recommendations on testing, timeframes for returning to childcare, and prevention tips.
- We have revised the [COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#) used to notify families when there has been a confirmed case in the childcare facility, but their child has been determined not to be a close contact.
- We simplified criteria for contacting the King County Coronavirus Call Center to report a confirmed case or cluster of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.

The updated guidance is available on the PHSKC [Schools and Childcare website](#) under the Childcare and Early Learning section.

3. Childcare vouchers available through December 2020

Please share with your communities! Thanks to local CARES emergency funding, vouchers are available to pay for childcare costs at licensed childcare providers between September and December 2020. Families may qualify for this financial assistance if they live or work in King County, fall within income guidelines and their income, work schedule, or access to child care has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 or they are an [essential worker](#). More information on eligibility is [available here](#).

To apply, families should:

- Call or text **1-800-446-1114** to request an application
- Or fill out an online application at: <https://tinyurl.com/KingCCFA>

[Program information is available in 22 languages on our website.](#)

4. Halloween and fall holiday tips during the pandemic

Halloween and other holiday festivities will need to be different during COVID-19, but there are still opportunities for fun and celebration. With proper planning and preparation, families and friends can enjoy holiday activities in some different ways. Traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating may be difficult to do while keeping adequate social distance, but there are other safer

options that Public Health recommends instead. Consider wrapping individual goodie bags for a grab and go option at the bottom of the driveway. Or focus on family activities like a craft party or spooky movie night. There are many other options along with some activities to avoid discussed in the recent [Public Health Insider post](#). The CDC has other tips on Halloween, along with guidance for safe activities during Día de los Muertos and Thanksgiving, on their [Holiday Celebrations web page](#).

5. Employer health & safety requirements for school scenarios

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Department of Labor and Industries posted the following documents related to K-12 schools on September 30, 2020:

- [Employer Health & Safety Requirements for School Scenarios](#)
- [Preparing for or Expanding In-Person Instruction & Services](#)

Wishing you health and safety during this time,

The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force