

Dear school partners,

Happy February! We hope that you are finding ways to celebrate Black history, present, and future this month. We see today in the way that data and experience pans out for Black Americans—notably during the pandemic—that we collectively have so far to go in our race and social justice journey. We remain committed to addressing [racism as a public health crisis](#) and celebrating Black excellence in our communities.

**Reminder: please review the [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#), [related resources](#), and [training videos](#).**

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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. Vaccine updates
  - a. King County opens COVID-19 vaccination sites
  - b. OSPI/Kaiser partnership
  - c. Ways to get involved
3. Performing arts updates to DOH K-12 guidance
4. Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours
5. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators’ contact info with PHSKC

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### 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 document titled [Tools to Prepare 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 are data as of **February 3, 2021**. These data are available and regularly updated on the PHSKC [COVID-19 data dashboard webpage](#) (links to specific data points are included in the following chart).

<b>Current King County COVID-19 Activity Level:</b>		<b>MODERATE</b>
<b>Education Modality:</b>	<b>Phase in in-person learning.</b>  Prioritize Elementary (pre-K-5) if they are not already receiving in-person learning, and Middle School. If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add more high school students when case rates are below about 200/100K/14 days.	
<b>Extracurricular:</b>	Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.	
<b>Transition:</b>	<b>Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When trends in cases and hospitalizations are flat or decreasing, and the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, expand access to in-person learning</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When trends are increasing, pause expansion of additional in-person learning and maintain access to in-person learning for those who have it. Schools are not required to reduce in-person learning or revert to remote learning based on metrics if the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment.</li> <li>Consider other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families At any COVID-19 level, transition temporarily to full distance learning for 14 days when school meets criteria in DOH’s K-12 Health and Safety Guidance (p 16) or on recommendation of the local health officer.</li> </ul>
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<b>Activity Level Key:</b>	Low	Moderate	High
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Indicator	Target/Range		Current Status
Cases/100K/14 days <sup>1</sup>	High	>350 cases/100K/14 days	<a href="#">191 cases/100K/14 days</a>
	Moderate	50-350 cases/100K/14 days	
	Low	<50 cases/100K/14 days	
Trend in cases and hospitalizations <sup>2</sup>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cases:</b> <a href="#">Decreasing</a></li> <li><b>Hospitalizations:</b> <a href="#">Flat/decreasing</a></li> </ul>
Test positivity <sup>3</sup>	High	>10%	NA <sup>3</sup>
	Moderate	5-10%	
	Low	<5%	

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

<sup>2</sup>Total 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.

<sup>3</sup>Percent of COVID-19 tests with positive results over the past 14 days—**Percent positive is not available for the most recent 21 days, due to delays in negative tests being reported through the Washington State Department of Health**

## 2. Vaccine updates

*Schools play a critical role in sharing out trusted messaging about vaccine eligibility, availability, and access. We rely on you to help us get out the following information to your communities and colleagues.*

### a. King County opens COVID-19 vaccination sites

On Monday, February 1, King County opened two COVID-19 community vaccination sites, at the [accesso ShoWare Center in Kent](#) (625 W James St) and at the General Services Administration (GSA) Complex in Auburn (2701 C St SW). These south King County sites will serve those who are at highest risk from COVID-19 and face barriers to accessing vaccine through traditional healthcare systems.

Public Health has received enough vaccine doses from the state to begin operating the two sites at 500 doses per day, six days a week. These sites will position King County to be able to quickly scale up vaccination efforts and serve the broader community when more vaccine becomes available.

To help ensure access for those most at risk, currently registration is open to residents of south King County who are:

- Age 75 and older **OR**
- A caregiver or home care worker taking care of someone age 50 or older who cannot live independently. The caregiver or home care worker does not need to be 50 or older **OR**
- Specific groups of people age 50 and older. Those who are:
  - **Unable to live independently** and receiving care from a caregiver, relative, in-home caregiver or someone who works outside the home.
  - **Living with AND caring for kin** (examples include caring for a grandchild, niece or nephew. This does not include parents living with their child.)

The Kent and Auburn COVID-19 vaccine sites will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM. They will provide vaccinations **by appointment only**.

Residents can register for an appointment at Public Health’s vaccine website, [Getting Vaccinated in King County](#).

Currently, both vaccine supply and appointments are limited. Residents may experience delays, or it may take time before appointments are available due to anticipated high demand. This will get easier as the vaccine supply increases.

Assistance registering by phone: Call Washington state’s COVID-19 Assistance Hotline at 1-800-525-0127, then press # for help with registration by phone. **For language interpretation** state your preferred language when you are connected.

**Read more on our [Public Health Insider blog](#).**

#### **b. OSPI/Kaiser partnership**

Last Friday the Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions [announced a partnership](#) with Kaiser Permanente of Washington to support access for Pre-K-12 staff (both public and private) in Washington State. We are monitoring this closely and will share updates as we get them on what this means for King County. In the meantime, you can learn more about the state-level efforts and plans on the [OSPI website](#).

#### **c. Ways to get involved**

We have heard from so many schools and districts saying they want to help. Below are ways we can use your support right now:

- **Offer space and facilities for King County-led vaccine administration:** We have received many generous offers of space and facilities for vaccine administration from King County schools. Thank you! We are inventorying these offers and sharing them with key leaders in our local vaccine distribution efforts.

As vaccine supply and distribution expands, King County will be assessing these offers of community space and facilities as they align with geographic and equity priorities for vaccine administration.

Offers continue to be welcomed. Please share them with [schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov) including the physical addresses of the volunteered sites and key contact information. It is unlikely we will be able to respond to each of these offers. We remain incredibly grateful for them.

- **Offer space and facilities for other vaccine administration efforts:** There may be other opportunities to partner with vaccine administrators in your communities. Visit the DOH's [vaccine locations website](#) to see which healthcare providers are already designated COVID-19 vaccine providers in your region of King County. PHSKC is also exploring our role in brokering these partnerships.
- **Become a designated vaccine provider:** If your district or organization is interested in administering vaccine, please visit the DOH's [enrollment page for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#). This responsibility would include receiving, storing, administering, and tracking vaccines. *We do not expect most schools or districts to have this capacity.*
- **Volunteer time and expertise:** For individuals interested in volunteering their time and expertise, please send an email to King County's [Public Health Reserve Corps \(PHRC\)](#) at [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov) and provide a brief description behind their interest in joining.

### 3. Performing arts updates to DOH K-12 guidance

The Department of Health's [K-12 Schools Guidance](#) has been updated with additional requirements for performing arts in the K-12 setting. The guidance is modeled after the National Federation of High School's [International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Report 3](#) and follows many of the recommendations set forth in Governor Inslee's [Roadmap to Recovery performing arts guidance](#).

### 4. Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours

*Please share with your COVID leads and coordinators:* The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force will begin offering "office hours" for [School and District COVID Coordinators](#). Office hours will be held every Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm. **\*\*Attendees are expected to review the [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#) and the associated [training videos](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page) BEFORE attending office hours.\*\***

**Please note that there will NOT be an Office Hours session on February 18 (two weeks from now) while most schools are on mid-winter break.**

Come with your specific COVID-19 questions related to your K-12 school (e.g., environmental health, clarification of King County guidance). No question is too small! Come connect with and learn from your peers! If you would like to submit questions beforehand, please submit them to [schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov) with the subject line "Office Hours." We will do our best to answer them during the following Thursday office hours session.

[Join here](#) using password **COVID19**

### 5. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators' contact info with PHSKC

To ensure that we are reaching staff critical to your schools' COVID response efforts, [please respond to this survey](#) to provide their names and contact information. This will be helpful in our ongoing efforts to

keep you and your staff informed and updated during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also facilitate easier follow-up and collaboration when cases are reported in your buildings. Thank you for taking the time to respond!

*In health,*

*The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force*