**Sector Email 3.11.2021**

**Subject header:** Updates on COVID-19 from Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

**Schools**

Dear school partners,

March is Women’s History Month and this year we are grateful to some of the women who are making history by changing the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Have you learned about Kizzmekia Corbett, an African American Immunologist who co-led the development of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This month, we celebrate Dr. Corbett and thousands of her colleagues in healthcare, research and public health as women who are making history.

**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 Child Care Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

1. Key indicators of COVID-19 activity
2. Vaccine Updates
   a. Educators, school staff and child care workers now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine
   b. How school and child care staff can access vaccines
   c. Getting Vaccinated Resources
   d. Signs and Symptoms Following Vaccination
3. COVID Community Vaccination Event Planning Workbooks
4. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
5. Updated Mask Posters
6. Events
   a. Public Health’s upcoming trainings and community discussions on COVID-19
   b. COVID-19 Vaccination Webinar and Q&A
   c. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Webinar and Q&A
   d. Oromo Session – COVID-19 and Vaccinations
   e. Somali Session – COVID-19 and Vaccinations
7. Updated Guidance from the CDC – *When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated*
8. School and District Town Hall Meetings
9. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

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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 March 11, 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current King County COVID-19 Activity Level:</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Modality: Phase in in-person learning.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular: Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition: Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</td>
<td>• 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 • 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. • 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level Key:</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target/Range</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases/100K/14 days</td>
<td>High: &gt;350 cases/100K/14 days</td>
<td>Moderate: 50-350 cases/100K/14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend in cases and hospitalizations</td>
<td>• Cases: Decreasing • Hospitalizations: Decreasing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test positivity</td>
<td>High: &gt;10%</td>
<td>Moderate: 5-10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4%
1 Total number of cases for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents.

2 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.

3 Percent of COVID-19 tests with positive results over the past 14 days—Test positivity is reported with a 3-week lag, due to reporting delays

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.*

**Educators, school staff and childcare workers eligible for COVID-19 vaccine**

On March 2nd, President Biden announced a directive that all states prioritize vaccinations of teachers and childcare workers, with a goal of all school staff and child care workers to get at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of March. In response, Washington Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington Department of Health have added K-12 staff and educators and childcare workers to Washington’s current vaccination phase, effective immediately. The following groups have been added to the current vaccination phase:

i. Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade educators and school staff

ii. Childcare workers, including:

1. Licensed family home childcare providers, and the family members living in their home.

2. License-exempt family, friends and neighbor providers that accept Working Connections Child Care Subsidy.

3. ECEAP, Washington’s state funded preschool providers.

4. License-exempt school-age and youth development providers who have been providing care to school-age children since the pandemic began and schools were closed.

**How School and Child Care staff can access vaccines**

While school and childcare teachers and staff are now eligible for vaccination, the supply of vaccine in the state and nationally remains limited, and with more people eligible for vaccine, appointments will continue to be relatively scarce. Getting vaccinated will become easier as pharmacies and other vaccine providers receive more vaccine supply. The following are suggestions for school and childcare staff to access vaccination.

i. Use the online "Phase Finder" tool to confirm your eligibility and schedule an appointment at locations that have appointments available. The phase finder is available in many languages - translated Phase Finder tools are available at this link.

ii. You may also find vaccination appointments at pharmacies using VaccineFinder. This site lists some pharmacies that are not in Phase Finder yet.

iii. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will prioritize vaccinating school staff and childcare workers during the month of March.

iv. Some school districts, health care providers, or counties may host clinics specifically for schools and childcare workers. OSPI’s Q&A document describes some opportunities that may be available specifically to educators.
v. Through OSPI and Kaiser Permanente’s Get Ready program partnership. You can find more information about accessing this program at OSPI’s website or by reviewing the Get Ready Program FAQ.

c. Getting Vaccinated Resources

The FDA has authorized a third COVID-19 vaccine, made by Johnson & Johnson. This vaccine was shown to be 85% effective in preventing severe illness and only requires one dose. [Learn more here.](#)

The Public Health Getting Vaccinated page now has links to translations in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Khmer, Korean, Marshallese, Oromo, Russian, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Tongan, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The Vaccine FAQ page answers many common questions about COVID vaccine, and includes links to translations in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Khmer, Korean, Marshallese, Oromo, Russian, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Tongan, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

d. Symptoms after Vaccination

With more school and child care employees receiving vaccines, questions have come up about if individuals need to quarantine if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 soon after receiving a vaccination. Employees may return to work and **not** quarantine if they have symptoms of COVID-19 within a few days of vaccine administration, **IF:**

- The **have not** been in contact with someone with COVID-19 **AND**
- They feel well enough and are willing to perform normal activities such as work **AND**
- They do not have a fever **AND**
- Signs and symptoms are **limited only** to those observed following COVID-19 vaccination (including pain, swelling, tiredness, chills, headache – [see a list of symptoms](#)) **AND**
- They **do not** have other signs and symptoms of COVID-19, such a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or change in smell and taste.

Public Health provides information on this and other frequently asked questions on our [Vaccine FAQ page](#).

3. COVID-19 Community Vaccination Event Planning workbooks

Many schools and districts are interested in hosting their own vaccination events. These workbooks aim to assist your organization with planning a Community Vaccination Event at a large, indoor space where people can walk up and get vaccinated. Planning tasks for opening and operating a Community Vaccination Event are explained, and links to external resources are included to help you prepare to provide COVID-19 vaccine to your community. There are two versions—one focused on employers and businesses and one focused on community-based organizations and faith-based organizations.

- [Workbook for businesses and large employers](#) (PDF)
- [Workbook for community-based and faith-based organizations](#) (PDF)

4. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
The pandemic continues to rage on, harming not only our physical health, but also devastating jobs. Many people are finding themselves in sudden need to health insurance. There is now a Special Enrollment Period for free or low-cost insurance through Washington’s Affordable Care Act health exchange – Washington Healthplanfinder. The enrollment period is open from Feb. 15-May 15, 2021. The enrollment period is open to anyone who is currently uninsured. Public Health – Seattle & King County has a team of Health Insurance Navigators available to help answer questions and walk through the process of applying and selecting the right insurance plan. You can also browse plans and sign up directly through Washington Healthplanfinder.

5. Updated Mask Posters
Declining case rates and more people getting vaccinated are great news – but our best defense against COVID-19 continues to be mitigation strategies such as universal mask wearing. Public Health has updated posters available to download and print, including for use in schools and child care settings.

6. Upcoming events
   a. Public Health’s upcoming trainings and community discussions on COVID-19 updates, risk reduction, and resources:
      i. Con Confianza y En Comunidad: Hablando sobre COVID-19 y temas que nos afectan
         1. Martes a las 5:00 PM en español
         2. Pagina del Condado de King, en Facebook
      ii. Biweekly Community Partners’ Call to hear updates and ask questions:
         1. Every other Monday at 4:00 PM in English
         2. Next call on Monday, March 15th at 4:00 PM
         3. Join via Zoom: https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/93431287120

   b. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Webinar and Q&A for BSK Partners, featuring Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Leads
      i. Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 1:00-2:00pm
      ii. Zoom meeting: https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/98822993767?pwd=TWdPaWQvdG1uR0ZleDUxTUNPVE1Xdz09
          Meeting ID: 988 2299 3767               Passcode: 129255

   c. Oromo session
      The event is hosted by Media FURMATA in partnership with the Department of Neighborhood’s Community Liaisons. There will be a Public Health presenter at the meeting to help answer questions. The meeting will be mainly conducted in Oromo and interpreted when needed.
      Time: Fri, Mar 12, 4pm – 6pm
      Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86273628578?pwd=SktobDVUQ1FUWMydW1tVjZ4UElHdz09
      Meeting ID: 862 7362 8578
      Passcode: 9901

   d. Somali session
      Kal-fadhiga Macluumaadka Tallaalka COVID-19 iyo Su’aalaha iyo Jaw
7. **Updated Guidance from the CDC – When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated**

This week, the CDC issued updated guidance, also adopted by the Washington Department of Health, with guidelines for people who have been fully vaccinated. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks following the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine. The guidelines allow fully vaccinated people to gather with one another inside, without masks or distancing, and allows for some gatherings between low-risk unvaccinated people and those who are fully vaccinated. For more detail about what has – and hasn’t – changed, please visit the CDC’s website.

8. **Travel After Vaccination**

With case rates dipping and spring break just around the corner, many schools have been asking Public Health about updated guidance regarding travel and quarantine for those people who are fully vaccinated. The CDC’s recent guidance for individuals who have been fully vaccinated (see above) does not include any changes to quarantine following travel.

The safest option is to eliminate all non-essential travel to limit the spread of COVID-19. In King County, anyone arriving from other states or countries – including returning Washington residents – should quarantine for 14 days after arrival and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If it is not possible for the individual to quarantine for 14 days, they should quarantine and self-monitor for 10 days. If they are unable to quarantine for 10 days, they should quarantine for 7 full days after arrival.

These recommendations apply to all people, including those who are fully vaccinated.

9. **Updates to Washington Department of Health K-12 Schools Guidance**

On March 11, 2021, Washington DOH updated the K-12 Schools 2020-2021 Guidance. Updates include: update to performing arts minimal distancing requirements, updated mask language, updated quarantine information for fully vaccinated individuals, and additional recommendations for cleaning, sanitizing and ventilation, among others. The full document, including a summary of recent changes, can be accessed here.

10. **School and District Town Hall Meetings**

As more schools move towards a return to some in-person learning, parents, teachers, and community members have many questions. What will classrooms look like with social distancing in place? Will I know if there is a case of COVID-19 at my child’s school? How are you planning to keep our community as safe as possible during return to learning? The Public Health – Seattle & King
County Schools and Childcare Taskforce is available to support schools and districts in hosting Virtual Town Hall events to answer some of these questions. If you’re interested in coordinating an event with the Task Force, please contact SchoolResponse@kingcounty.gov with “Town Hall” in the subject line.

11. Schools and Child Care Task Force Office Hours

PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours are held each Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm. Please come with your specific COVID-19 questions related to your K-12 school (e.g., environmental health, clarification of King County guidance) – and please join us to share promising approaches that your school is using to implement COVID-19 protocols as well! If you have questions prior to office hours, please submit them to schoolresponse@kingcounty.gov with the subject line “Office Hours.” We will do our best to answer them during the following Thursday office hours session.

**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.**

Join here using password COVID19

In health,

The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force

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Childcare

Dear childcare partners,

This week’s Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC) Schools and Childcare Task Force sector email includes the following topics:

1. Vaccine Updates
   a. Educators, school staff, and child care workers now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine
   b. How School and Child Care staff can access vaccines
   c. Updates to King County Vaccination Websites
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   i. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will prioritize vaccinating school staff and child care workers during the month of March.

4. Resources for Learning about Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs

   1. **Vaccine updates**

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   i. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will prioritize vaccinating school staff and child care workers during the month of March. Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, child-care centers, family child care providers, and ECEAP providers staff will be able to sign up for an appointment through this program.
   ii. Use the online “Phase Finder” tool to confirm your eligibility and schedule an appointment at locations that have appointments available. The Phase Finder is available in many languages - translated Phase Finder tools are available at this link. Paper versions of the tool are available on the partner resources page.
   Teachers and staff who have already completed the Phase Finder tool prior to the change in vaccination phase guidance should receive an e-mail soon with more information about scheduling an appointment for a vaccination. Those who complete the tool now will be directed to a site with this information.
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4. **Resources for Learning about Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs**

   Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and child care programs.

   a. [Tips and strategies for improving ventilation from the CDC](#).
   b. [An interesting simulation on ventilation from the New York Times](#).

*In health,*
The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force