

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](#).

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

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).

Current King County COVID-19 Activity Level:		MODERATE
Education Modality:	Phase in in-person learning. 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.	
Extracurricular:	Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.	
Transition:	<p>Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

Activity Level Key:	Low	Moderate	High
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Indicator	Target/Range		Current Status
Cases/100K/14 days ¹	High	>350 cases/100K/14 days	86 cases/100K/14 days
	Moderate	50-350 cases/100K/14 days	
	Low	<50 cases/100K/14 days	
Trend in cases and hospitalizations ²			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases: Decreasing • Hospitalizations: Decreasing
Test positivity ³	High	>10%	2.4% ³
	Moderate	5-10%	
	Low	<5%	

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—**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.

a. 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.

b. 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](#). Paper versions of the tool are available on the [partner resources page](#).
- 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 child care 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=SktoBdVUQ1FUUWMydW1tVjZ4UEIHdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 7362 8578

Passcode: 9901

d. Somali session

Kal-fadhiga Macluumaadka Tallaalka COVID-19 iyo Su'aalaha iyo Jaw

Caafimaadka Dadweynaha - Seattle & King County (PHSKC) iyo Seattle Xafiiska Muhaajiriinta iyo Qaxootiga (OIRA) waxay iska kaashadeen martigelinta kulan tababar ah si ay ula wadaagaan macluumaad dheeri ah oo ku saabsan tallaalka COVID-19, si aad awood ugu yeelato inaad si kalsooni leh ula hadasho bulshadaada oo ku saabsan habka tallaalka iyo su'aalaha guud ee ku saabsan tallaalka.

Time: Tue, Mar 16, 5 pm -7 pm

Ku soo biir Kulan Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94526185573?pwd=S3UxN0FrbHllczJLSEV5OWNTdkFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 2618 5573

Passcode: 81835

Facebook event page: <https://fb.me/e/15CoudG41> - Please share!

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

Childcare

Dear childcare partners,

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

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 - b. How School and Child Care staff can access vaccines
 - c. Updates to King County Vaccination Websites
2. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
3. Upcoming Events
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- c. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Webinar and Q&A
 - 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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- iii. You may also find vaccination appointments at pharmacies using [VaccineFinder](#). This site lists some pharmacies that are not in Phase Finder yet.

d. Updates to King County Vaccination Websites

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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