

**Sector Email 3.4.2021**

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

Schools

Dear school partners,

In addition to a few days of much needed sun, this week brought us news of changes in the current vaccine eligibility plan to include teachers, school staff and childcare workers. This is an exciting – but also confusing – time. This week’s e-mail includes some details about how school staff and child care workers can access vaccines to help!

**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. Updates to King County Vaccination Websites
3. Special Enrollment for Washington Health Care
4. 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
5. Resources for Learning about Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs
6. School and District Town Hall Meetings
7. 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 4, 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>	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.
<b>Extracurricular:</b>	Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.
<b>Transition:</b>	<p><b>Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</b></p> <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> <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>

<b>Activity Level Key:</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>
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Indicator	Target/Range		Current Status
Cases/100K/14 days <sup>1</sup>	<b>High</b>	>350 cases/100K/14 days	<a href="#">90 cases/100K/14 days</a>
	<b>Moderate</b>	50-350 cases/100K/14 days	
	<b>Low</b>	<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="#">Decreasing</a></li> </ul>
Test positivity <sup>3</sup>	<b>High</b>	>10%	2.5% <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Moderate</b>	5-10%	
	<b>Low</b>	<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—**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 now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine**

This week, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#). 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.
- 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. Pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, child-care centers, family childcare providers and ECEAP providers staff will be able to sign up for an appointment through this program beginning next week.
- 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. We anticipate that more information will come out from OSPI about the "Get Ready" plan that will provide more access to vaccination for school staff and some childcare providers. [Learn more here](#).

### c. Updates to King County Vaccination Websites

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.

### 3. 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](#).

### 4. 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 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM
  3. Join via Zoom: <https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/93431287120>

#### b. COVID-19 Vaccination Webinar and Q&A for BSK Partners, featuring Dr. Mia Shim, Chief Medical Officer at PHSKC

- i. Monday, March 8, 2021, 9:30-10:30am
- ii. Zoom meeting:  
<https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/95311261082?pwd=eG9odFkzK0J1eDIVUWtmYkR6RC9BUT09> Meeting ID: 953 1126 1082 Passcode: 460343

#### c. 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>  
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## 5. Resources for Learning about Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs

Ventilation is one component of maintaining health environments and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and childcare programs. If you have questions about ventilation and other environmental health concerns, please email [SchoolResponse@kingcounty.gov](mailto:SchoolResponse@kingcounty.gov).

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

## 6. 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](mailto:SchoolResponse@kingcounty.gov) with "Town Hall" in the subject line.

## 7. 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](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.

**\*\*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:

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### 1. Vaccine updates

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