

Dear school partners,

This week has reminded us of the incredible commitment to collaboration that our schools and districts have in supporting the health and wellbeing of students, families, and staff. We have received many inquiries and offers from you all in support of vaccine distribution and administration efforts. Thank you! We are working diligently with local and State colleagues to get and disseminate critical information about these efforts and how they impact schools and families.

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 announces new funding for community vaccination efforts
 - b. State COVID-19 vaccine planning and phase guidance
 - c. Volunteering for COVID-19 response
 - d. DOH COVID-19 vaccine update for school leaders
3. Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours
4. REMINDER: Please share your COVID Coordinators' contact info with PHSKC
5. Mental health resources
 - a. Washington Listens
 - b. Forefront Suicide Prevention resources for families and schools

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 **January 13, 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:		HIGH
Education Modality:	Phase in in-person learning in groups of 15 or fewer students for pre-K through grade 5 and those with highest needs. Prioritize Pre-K through grade 3, and students in any grade with disabilities, students living homeless, or those farthest from educational justice. If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add grades 4-5.	
Extracurricular:	Cancel or postpone most in-person extra-curricular activities except those allowed under Safe Start and Governor's proclamations on COVID-19.	
Transition:	Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels: <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	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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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	352 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: Increasing Hospitalizations: Flat/decreasing
Test positivity ³	High	>10%	14.5% 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—**WA State Department of Health has resumed reporting on negative laboratory results. There remains a large backlog of negative lab results that have not been processed (about 100,000 negative lab results). The count of people tested and all test results is underestimated as WA DOH processes this backlog. As a result, the test positivity reported on this dashboard are overestimated, especially in the most recent week.**

2. Vaccine updates

a. King County announces new funding for community vaccination efforts

King County announced the allocation of \$7 million to create new high-volume community vaccination sites and mobile teams to efficiently and equitably vaccinate as many residents as possible, as quickly as possible. These vaccination efforts will complement vaccination efforts through the healthcare system, pharmacies, and other providers. Most people in King County will access COVID-19 vaccines through their primary care provider or a local pharmacy.

However, as we have learned from our COVID-19 testing sites, high-volume, open access, drive-up and walk-up vaccination sites are essential to ensure equitable access to services. These vaccination sites will serve people at highest risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 first and eventually be open to all members of the public as more vaccine supplies become available. Learn more about the [new sites here](#).

“King County will step up and organize community vaccination centers and mobile teams to make sure we hit the ground running as more and more people become eligible to receive doses,” said Executive Constantine. “To get this pandemic under control, 16,000 adults must be vaccinated every day for six months. That’s why we need everyone behind this effort. We are moving ahead now despite the lack of clarity on supply chain or federal funding allocation because every day delayed impacts the lives of our residents, the strength of our community, and the vitality of our businesses.” You can read the full [press report here](#).

b. State COVID-19 vaccine planning and phase guidance

Last week, DOH provided an update and shared decisions on the COVID vaccination [Phase 1B plans](#). This [visual graphic](#) shows an approximate timeline and groups scheduled for vaccinations. King County has the largest population of healthcare providers and people in long-term care facilities in the state, so it may take longer to vaccinate people in Phase 1A here than in other counties with smaller populations.

The [vaccine allocation and prioritization guidance](#) was also updated to reflect the new information. **Some of your staff may be eligible and we ask for your support in communicating this as trusted messengers and employers.**

As additional future phases are finalized, DOH will continue to update and share that information, which we will share on [our website](#) and through these sector emails.

Here are some additional resources on vaccine planning and distribution:

- DOH Fact sheet: [Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19](#) (PDF). This document will be made available in 35 additional languages later this week.
- [Getting vaccinated in King County](#): Information about current phase, who can get vaccinated now, how to get vaccinated, and next phase planning for King County. King County is currently in the state's Phase 1A, Tier 1 for vaccine distribution, and will follow the state's guidance on when to advance to Phase 1B and later phases.
- Learn more about Washington's COVID-19 vaccine phases and their [prioritization framework](#).

c. Volunteering for COVID-19 Response

We have received many generous offers of labor in support of COVID-19 vaccination efforts in King County. Thank you! Prospective volunteers are invited to send an email to King County's Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) at phrc@kingcounty.gov to request more information and provide a brief description behind their interest in joining. A PHSKC staff member will respond to your email with more information on next steps.

Volunteers who would like to support vaccine clinics will need to complete the PHRC membership process before participating, including:

- Creating a profile in Washington State's online emergency worker volunteer database
- Signing PHSKC and King County Office of Emergency Management volunteer forms, and a volunteer handbook through Docusign
- Undergoing a background check by PHSKC Human Resources

The PHRC membership enrollment process takes an average of 1-2 weeks. As members of the PHRC, volunteers will also need to attend a virtual new volunteer orientation, and complete FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) courses 100 and 700 within three months of becoming a member.

d. DOH COVID-19 vaccine update for school leaders

Colleagues from the DOH presented the attached slide deck to Puget Sound Educational Services District (PSESD) Superintendents. The content is relevant to K-12 partners broadly and we share it for those interested in learning a bit more about DOH's efforts to support our sector.



1-12-2021 COVID
Vaccine Updates & O:

3. Schools and Childcare Task Force office hours

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 **starting TODAY**.

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.

Come with your specific COVID-19 questions related to your K-12 school (e.g., environmental health, clarification of King County guidance). 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.

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

4. 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!

5. Mental health resources *Please share with your networks!*

a. Washington Listens

If you or anyone you know is having difficulties managing stress, call the [Washington Listens](#) support line at 1-833-681-0211. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. TTY and language access services are available by using 7-1-1 or their preferred method. Resources and self-help tips are available on walistens.org.

b. Forefront Suicide Prevention resources for families and schools

Youth suicide has been on the rise in recent years, as young people were facing increasing levels of anxiety and stress even before COVID-19. The pandemic has been particularly hard on them, with the switch to virtual learning for many Washington students, and the uncertainty about what the future will bring for them—especially high schoolers and college students.

Moreover, because of COVID-19, fewer adults have eyes on our youth, and there is more pressure on parents and guardians to fulfill the support roles that are usually shared with schools, coaches, and youth workers.

Forefront Suicide Prevention provides [resources and information](#) about things families and schools can do to support mental well-being in our youth, and prevent suicide in their communities.

In health,

The PHSKC Schools and Childcare Task Force