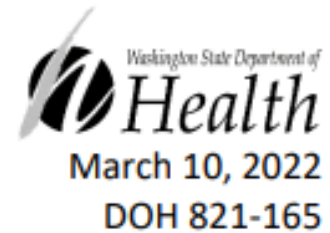


**UPDATED
REQUIREMENTS
AND GUIDANCE
FOR:
K-12 SCHOOLS,
CHILD CARE,
EARLY LEARNING,
YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT,
AND
DAY CAMP
PROGRAMS**



UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

The [guidance](#) released by the Washington State Department of Health for schools and childcare applies to King County K-12 schools and childcares.



Public Health – Seattle & King County will not be issuing different or additional guidance at this time because:

- Community transmission rates are low.
- The recent Omicron surge likely has resulted in some immunity for at least the short-term among the many school age children who were infected
- And because school leadership and our neighboring health jurisdictions strongly desired a consistent approach to masking guidance across counties.

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

School districts and child care facilities may choose to have students, teachers, and visitors wear masks even though the mask mandate is ending. Any individual who chooses to continue wearing a mask in school or childcare should be supported in their decision.



UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Summary of Guidance Changes from WA DOH

The new guidance outlines a shorter set of requirements and continues to provide schools and child care providers with options they may utilize to prevent or mitigate transmission of COVID-19.

The [full guidance](#) & [symptom flowchart](#) are available now.

Key areas of focus include:

- Layering optional prevention measures such as masks, screening tests, and ventilation that schools, child cares, or local health can implement generally, for higher risk activities, or in response to outbreaks or when disease levels are high.
- Encouraging individuals to use COVID-19 prevention strategies through vaccination, distancing, testing, and masking for personal protection.

If a person has one or more of these symptoms:

- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough (new, changed, or worsening)



They should isolate at home AND get tested for COVID-19

If they do not receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider OR do not get tested



They test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19



They test **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 OR receive an alternative named diagnosis from a health care provider plus a negative test



Isolate at home

They can return to school, child care, and activities after five days have passed since symptoms first appeared if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) **AND**
2. Symptoms have significantly improved **AND**
3. Wear a mask around others days 6–10 **OR** test negative with an antigen test to return without a mask

If they cannot wear a mask and do not test negative after day five, they must continue isolating through day 10.

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore throat



They should isolate at home

Was **only ONE** symptom present?

NO

YES

Did the symptom resolve within 24 hours **OR** are they consistent with a diagnosed chronic illness?

NO

YES

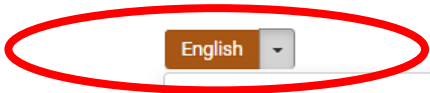


Return to school, child care, and activities if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication)
- AND**
2. Symptoms have significantly improved

Symptom Flowchart

Resources and Recommendations



Beginning March 12, 2022, face masks are no longer required in many indoor settings, including K-12 schools, restaurants, gyms, grocery stores and retail stores. Masks will still be required in some settings, including (but not limited to) medical facilities, long-term care facilities, and public transit. Private businesses and local governments may still require masks, if they choose. Many individuals may want to continue wearing masks for added protection from COVID-19. We are in the process of updating our guidance with this new information. Thank you for your patience.

Find general and sector-specific guidance, resources and recommendations. Some materials are in multiple languages. This is a constantly changing situation, please check back often for the most up-to-date version (dates are on documents).

- Business and Workers
- Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
- Cloth Face Coverings and Masks
- Community Partners
- Healthcare Providers
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Schools and Child Care
- Testing

- Amharic - አማርኛ
- Arabic - العربية
- Bengali
- Burmese - မြန်မာ
- Chinese, Simplified - 简体中文
- Chinese, Traditional - 繁體中文
- Chuukese - Fosu Chuuk
- Dari - دری
- Dinka
- Farsi - فارسی
- Fijian - Vosa vakaviti
- French - Français
- Garifuna
- German - Deutsch
- Gujarati
- Haitian Creole - Kreyòl ayisyen
- Hakha Chin
- Hanyu Pinyin
- Hindi - हिन्
- Hmong - Hmoob
- Indonesian

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Some requirements remain:

- Schools and child care providers must continue to report COVID-19 cases and outbreaks to public health and cooperate with investigations in accordance with [WAC 246-101-420](#).
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate and can return to school or care following the options within the guidance.
- People with COVID-19 must isolate for at least five days and should wear a well-fitting mask or receive a negative test if they return between days 6 - 10. People who do not wear a mask or receive a negative test can return after day 10.



UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Some requirements remain:

- Schools must provide access to timely diagnostic testing for symptomatic students and staff and those who learn they may have been exposed.
- Schools and child care providers must notify employees and children at risk for severe disease of potential COVID-19 exposures and keep their school or program community informed about cases and outbreaks.
- Schools, districts, child care facilities, and local public health jurisdictions may implement more protective requirements at any time or in response to an outbreak or local surge of disease. More protective guidance must be followed.



UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Resources to help families with questions COVID-19 & vaccine for kids 5 to 11

The vaccination protects where it matters most: against severe illness, hospitalization, long-term symptoms, and death.

This toolkit is to help community and faith organizations, childcare providers, schools, and other youth service providers answer common questions about COVID vaccination and protecting children.

Please share the resources from this toolkit with the families in your networks. We offer tips about how to use these materials in each section of the toolkit.

[Outreach Toolkit in English](#)

[Outreach Toolkit in Spanish](#)



OUTREACH TOOLKIT FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Resources to help families with questions about COVID-19 & vaccine for kids 5 to 11

3/7/22



This toolkit is to help community and faith organizations, childcare providers, schools, and other youth service providers answer common questions about COVID vaccination and protecting children.

What's in the toolkit:



Links to videos, flyers, social media graphics, and other resources about vaccination for children



FAQs and other messaging to help you answer questions and share information

Please share the resources from this toolkit with the families in your networks. We offer tips about how to use these materials in each section of the toolkit.

Thank you for all that you do to support families in King County!



HERRAMIENTAS DE DIVULGACIÓN PARA ORGANIZACIONES

Materiales para ayudar a las familias con sus dudas sobre la vacuna contra COVID-19 para niños de 5 a 11 años

3/7/22



Este conjunto de herramientas tiene como objetivo ayudar a responder preguntas comunes sobre la vacuna contra COVID y la protección de los niños que asisten a organizaciones comunitarias y religiosas, guarderías, escuelas y otras entidades que proporcionan servicios para adolescentes.

Qué ofrece este conjunto de herramientas:



Enlaces a videos, folletos, publicaciones para las redes sociales y otros materiales sobre la vacunación infantil



Respuestas a preguntas frecuentes y otros mensajes que le ayudarán a responder preguntas y compartir información

Por favor, comparta los materiales de este juego de herramientas con las familias de sus redes y contactos. En cada sección de herramientas ofrecemos consejos sobre cómo utilizar estos materiales.

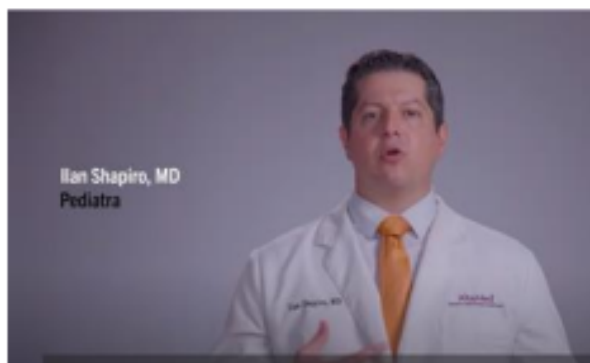
¡Gracias por todo lo que hacen para apoyar a las familias en el condado de King!

Video Resources



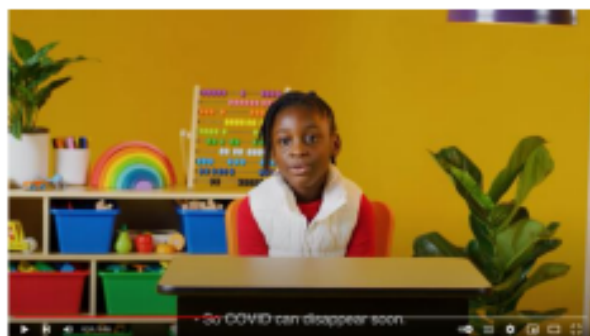
Pediatrician Dr. Rhea Boyd, MD, MPH, explains the COVID-19 health risks for **Black and Latinx children**. Dr. Boyd leads the Black and Latinx centered organization Greater Than COVID. (English - May be translated via YouTube to many languages)

View: youtu.be/3ZaYGTyDEQQ



Dr. Ilan Shapiro, MD talks to parents about why it's important to protect children with the COVID-19 vaccine. (Spanish - May be translated via YouTube to many languages)

View: youtu.be/IG2RrA0ICB4



We Asked Kids About the COVID-19 Vaccine. Kids give their own reasons about why they should get vaccinated. (from the WA State Dept. of Health)

View: https://youtu.be/_auBOYSyua0



Families with young children, adolescents, & teens share why they got the COVID-19 Vaccine. (English - May be translated via YouTube to many languages)



Family with elementary-school age kids:
youtube.com/watch?v=e38HJINjCRo

Family with teens/young adults:
youtube.com/watch?v=K_EGF1sw1T4

kingcounty.gov/covid/vaxresources

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Additional Testing Resources for Families: At-Home (Rapid Antigen) tests

- Families and households can order additional free COVID-19 at-home test kits from the federal government and Washington State:
- [COVIDtests.gov - Free at-home COVID-19 tests*](https://www.covidtests.gov) - Families and households who already ordered at-home tests will be able to request additional tests next week.
- [Home - Say Yes! To Covid Test \(sayyescovidhometest.org\)](https://sayyescovidhometest.org) - Families and households who already ordered at-home tests can place up to 2 additional orders in the month of March.
- Please have families administering over-the counter/rapid antigen tests at home **read the instructions to double check the ages** for which the tests can be used. Different testing kits have different age requirements, and some, we have learned, are not approved for young children. Please use tests as directed per manufacturer's instructions.

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE FOR: K-12 SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

- * What to Do If USPS Won't Let You Order Free COVID-19 Tests**
If you see the message: "At-home COVID-19 tests have already been ordered for this address."
- If you live in an apartment or other multiple-family residence and you're getting this message, it's probably because the USPS system doesn't recognize your unit's address as one of several in a multi-unit building.
 - In these cases, the USPS recommends filing a service request at <https://email.usps.com/s/the-postal-store-inquiry> or calling its help desk at 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).

WHERE ELSE TO GET TESTED

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/testing.aspx>

County

COVID-19 testing locations and guidance

Attention: Volumes are high at all King County test sites and wait times are longer than normal. **Advanced appointments are strongly recommended.**

Notice: The SeaTac, Bellevue, and Kent-Des Moines test sites will transition to being operated solely by UW Medicine on January 1, 2022. Thank you to all of the staff and community partners who have worked tirelessly to run these sites for the past two years and thank you to UW Medicine for continuing to provide testing services at no cost moving forward. To make an appointment at any of these sites, [see the listing below for that location.](#)

Get tested in King County

If you feel sick and have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested right away, even if you're vaccinated. Early testing is important to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading to friends, family, and the community.

[Find a testing site near you](#)

Quick links

- [When to get tested](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Testing and Travel](#)
- [ADA accessible sites \(PDF\)](#)
- [List of testing sites in other languages](#)

When to get tested

- If you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested as early as possible regardless of vaccination

Testing options

- Start with your healthcare provider. A healthcare provider should provide a test if you have

Testing for travel

- Testing is not required *before* or *after* U.S. travel if fully vaccinated. Limit travel if you are not fully



FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://publichealthinsider.com/2022/03/10/whats-best-for-your-family-considerations-for-masking-at-school-and-child-care/>

Check out:

PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER

OFFICIAL INSIGHTS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY STAFF



WHAT'S BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY? CONSIDERATIONS FOR MASKING AT SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

 *Public Health Insider*

As the indoor mask mandate lifts statewide and in King County March 12, many families will be making personal decisions about indoor mask use. It's important to note that school districts and child care settings can choose to have students, teachers, and visitors wear masks even after the statewide mandate lifts.

Although masking is no longer required by the State or County, layered prevention measures in schools and child cares are important ways to reduce the risk of transmission, and families can continue to mask based on their personal preferences. Within the school setting, this includes vaccination of staff, improving indoor air quality through ventilation and use of portable HEPA filters, ensuring access to testing, and supporting staff and students to stay home when sick. And one of the most important ways to reduce risk for the entire school community is through high rates of community vaccination.

For settings where masks are optional, here's what we know about COVID-19 risk factors that may help you decide what's best for your family right now.

Summary of why mask mandates are lifting

FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

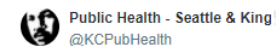
Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Email Address

FOLLOW

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Tweets by @KCPubHealth



FOR MORE INFORMATION

kingcounty.gov/covid/schools





Schools and child care

Starting March 12, masks will no longer be required in many indoor public spaces including K-12 schools and child care facilities.

Public Health – Seattle & King County follows the [guidance for schools and child care](#) from the Washington Department of Health. School districts and child care facilities may choose to have students, teachers, and visitors wear masks even though the mask mandate is ending. Any individual who chooses to continue wearing a mask in school or childcare should be supported in their decision.

Teachers, parents and caregivers have been resourceful, creative, and patient in supporting at-home learning. Child care and early learning centers have been critical in supporting workers on the front line of our COVID-19 response. We commend all their efforts! Please check this site for updated guidance for schools and child care.

Quick links

-  [Report COVID-19 cases to Public Health](#)
-  [Frequently asked questions](#)
-  [Guidance documents](#)
-  [Training videos](#)

Parents and guardians: if a child tests positive for COVID-19, please report the case to their school or child care center immediately. This helps to stop the virus from spreading, protect kids and staff, and keep facilities open.

Flu season is here and now is the best time to get vaccinated! Your family can safely get flu and COVID vaccines at the same time, along with other vaccines required for school and child care. [Learn more.](#)

Guidance documents

Child care and Early Learning Centers	+
K-12 schools	+
Higher education	+
Youth and summer camps	+
Related links	+

Training videos