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COVID-19 School Updates: March 11, 2022

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department sent this bulletin at 03/11/2022 02:30 PM PST

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COVID-19 School Updates

Schools Digest • March 11, 2022

County metrics

In less than 2 months, our outbreaks and outbreak related cases have dropped more than 80%. We listed no classroom-related outbreaks this week and total school outbreaks dropped from 50 and 241 cases to 4 and 20 cases.

See the latest COVID-19 data at tpchd.org/covid19cases.

What the Health Department is working on

The joint public/private schools workgroup met Thursday, March 3.

We meet with private schools Monday, March 14.

Our Schools Task Force is here to serve you! Email us at COVIDSchoolsTaskforce@tpchd.org.

Updated guidance

On March 8, Washington State Department of Health released [new guidance](#) for K-12 schools, child care, early learning, youth development, and day camp programs that begins March 12. You can find guidance for all these groups in one document. Updates include:

Masks

- Masks and physical distancing are optional, but DOH recommends you use them as tools to continue to help limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Masks are optional on school buses.
- Masks are required in health rooms.

Reporting

- Schools are still required to report cases and outbreaks and notify staff and high-risk students of exposure.
- We may request close contact information during an outbreak.

Isolation and Quarantine

- Quarantine is optional.
- Staff and students who test positive may return after 5 full days of isolation if symptoms improve and they are without a fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- To return to school staff and students must wear a well-fitting mask during day 6-10 or test negative with an antigen or at-home test any day after day 5.
- If the staff or student can't wear a well-fitted mask and don't test negative, they must complete a 10-day isolation.
- Schools must notify staff and high-risk students of potential exposure.
- Schools must have a process to inform all students, staff and parents if they have cases or outbreaks in the school.

Vaccine updates

CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 5 years or older. Everyone 12 years or older should get a booster dose:

- 5 months after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2 months after their single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Please refer families to clinics below that have Pfizer vaccine for all eligible ages. Many pharmacies and healthcare providers also have vaccines available. As masking becomes optional in schools, it's important to strengthen other layers of protection against COVID-19, like increasing vaccination rates. Currently only 22.7% of Pierce County children ages 5-11 are fully vaccinated.

We need your help to get feedback from parents! Please share this survey in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to help us understand gaps to get COVID-19 vaccine to kids.

Pediatric vaccine clinics

Want to help families find pediatric vaccines? Share these upcoming clinics with them. Find other vaccine clinics at tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture.

People's Center

March 18, 3-7 p.m.

1602 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA 98405

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/213146201191139>

Wilkeson Community Center

March 19, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.

540 Church St., Wilkeson, WA 98396

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220554447952157>

Resurrection Lutheran Church

March 24, 12-6 p.m.

4301 Browns Point Blvd NE, Tacoma, WA 98422

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220394961611152>

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

March 24, 2-6 p.m.

4851 S. Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220485873772163>

Sumner United Methodist Church

March 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

901 Wood Ave, Sumner, WA 98390

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220177159811152>

Key Peninsula Community Council

March 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

9013 Key Peninsula Hwy, Suite D, Lakebay, WA 98349

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/213226615843151>

Fife Community Center

March 29, 3-6 p.m.

2111 54th Ave E, Fife, WA 98424

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220194902026145>

Orting United Methodist Church

March 29, 2-6 p.m.

109 Train St. SE, Orting, WA 98360

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/220395401026142>



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