



KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2, 2021

Dear Kelso Families,

This is the weekly status update, which occurs each Tuesday.

Kelso School District continues the slow and steady roll-out of phased in-person learning while maintaining vigilance in our safety protocols and unwavering compassion and dedication to our students.

Today we are excited to welcome back our middle school students! Our ability to continue providing and expanding in-person learning opportunities is due to everyone following COVID safety precautions: frequently washing hands, wearing appropriate masks, physical distancing, and staying home when sick.

Next week our 9th and 10th grade students will return and we'll have all grades in hybrid in-person learning two days a week for the first time since March 12, 2020. We could not do this without the support of our staff and their dedication to your children and the Kelso community. Thank you for your patience, support, and confidence in Kelso School District staff and our schools.

Instructional Status

Grades 6, 7, and 8 started hybrid instruction today and will be attending school in-person two days a week, along with grades K-5, 11, and 12. Grades 9-10 remain in remote instruction and will transition to hybrid beginning February 8. As always, the health and well-being of our students and staff are our top priority. We remain diligent in our safety protocols, continue to work with the Department of Health, and monitor our four key metrics on a weekly basis. Timelines and instructional models are subject to change depending on our overall community health conditions.

Transmission Rates

Kelso has had zero school-based student transmissions since November 12, 2020.

Cowlitz County & SW WA Data

- The most current [Cowlitz County School Metrics Report](#) (February 1) shows local COVID-19 activity at 484 cases per 100,000 people in the reporting period of 1/13 – 1/26.
- Nearly twenty percent (19.6%) of Cowlitz County tests are positive for the time period of 1/5 – 1/11. Though this rate is high, it is still outdated. When this data point is current, it will be one of the metrics used to inform our decisions.
- ICU occupancy in SW Washington is BELOW THRESHOLD at 66% for the time period of 1/17 – 1/23, and is an increase from last week's report.



KSD WEEKLY STATUS UPDATE

REV: 2-2-21

STATUS FEB 1-5

K-8, 11-12:

Hybrid

9-10: Remote

**In-Person
Small Groups**

Internet Cafe
Special Education

KVA: Remote

DOH recommends that local leaders consider COVID-19 activity level (i.e., case rates, percent test positivity, trends, etc.) as well as the educational, social and emotional benefits of in-person learning for students.

Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels, 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.

[DOH Tools to Prepare for In-Person Learning](#)
(rev. 12-16-20)

OUR 4 KEY METRICS

WEEK OF FEB 1

1. TRANSMISSION IN SCHOOLS

For historical data, visit the KSD COVID-19 Dashboard at bit.ly/ksd-c19.



0 school-based student-to-student transmission

0 classrooms closed due to COVID-19

0 schools closed due to COVID-19

2. COVID-19 ACTIVITY

Historical Data

DATE	CASES / 100K	LEVEL
NOV 9-FEB 1	100-503	HIGH
OCT 12-NOV 02	44-64	MODERATE
SEPT 28-OCT 5	79-81	HIGH
SEPT 8-21	36-38	MODERATE
AUG 31	24	LOW
AUG 10-24	29-62	MODERATE



484 cases per 100k
per FEB 1 report
from CCHHS

3. POSITIVITY RATE*

Percent of Cowlitz County tests that are positive
Goal <10% positivity

19.6%

JAN 5 - JAN 11 per CCHHS

**When this data point is current, it will be one of the metrics used to inform our decisions.*

4. ICU OCCUPANCY

In Southwest Washington

Increase from last week.

BELOW THRESHOLD

66% of ICU beds occupied
1/17 - 1/23 per CCHHS

Cowlitz County School Metrics Reports at: bit.ly/cc-metrics | Daily Data: bit.ly/daily-cc

Daily Health Check Reminder

Please remember to perform the required daily [health check](#) on your child every morning before sending them to school. Additionally, [this form](#) must be signed and on file at your child's school. (Form [in Spanish](#) and [in Chuukese](#).)



Teaming Up With Area Districts For Kids' Sake

Kelso School District and Longview Public Schools developed a joint awareness campaign to encourage people to practice safety protocols to get (and keep) students in school in-person. Four other area school districts have joined our efforts asking everyone in our communities to follow established health safety protocols by wearing a face covering when out in public, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from other people, and practicing good hand washing hygiene.

Learn more about the campaign at bit.ly/we-can-ksd.

Resources to Watch

- [Kelso School District COVID-19 dashboard](#) - Provides information on classroom or school closures recommended by Cowlitz County Department of Health due to COVID-19 activity and confirmed positive **school-based** COVID-19 cases in students.
- [Cowlitz County School Metrics Webpage](#) - Our county data report is typically released each Monday and includes a Reopening Schools section.
- [Department of Health Tools to Prepare for In-Person Learning](#) – This framework assists local health officers in guiding and school administrators in deciding whether to resume, expand, or reduce in-person instruction for public and private K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Respectfully,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
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