



KSD family CONNECTION

November 23, 2021

Dear KSD Community,

This is our twice monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. Each edition includes:

- Relevant and timely information based on the month's theme
- A health and safety section
- A brief spotlight on one of our district programs, clubs, services, etc.



this month

Thanksgiving is this week. It's a perfect time to acknowledge and celebrate the many things we have to be grateful for. The most important of which isn't a thing at all—rather, it's the people in our lives. This includes not only family and friends, but also all those in the community who make our lives better in some way. The postal worker who delivers our mail, the grocer who stocks the our food, the teacher who educates our children, the city and county transportation teams that keep our roads safe and drivable, and so many more. We at Kelso School District count you, our families, among the abundance of goodness in our lives. Thank you.

One more thing to be thankful for: [7 Thanksgiving recipes that lighten the workload](#). From The New York Times, this list includes cheesy pizza stuffing and caramel apple pudding—YUM!



health & safety

The health and safety of our students and staff is always a top priority. We continue to work closely with state and local health authorities, such as Washington Department of Health (WDOH) and Cowlitz County Health & Human Services department (CCHHS) to ensure our mitigation strategies are strong and effective.

From the [November 17 CCHHS report](#):

- Cowlitz County saw an average of 34 new confirmed and probable cases per day from specimens collected October 31 – November 6. Weekly new case counts decreased sharply in the beginning of October and continue to slowly decrease.
- Cowlitz County saw an average of 1 resident admitted to a hospital for COVID-19 each day from October 31 – November 6. New COVID-19 hospitalizations among Cowlitz County residents decreased sharply in the beginning

of October and have leveled off or continue to slowly decrease since then. Cowlitz County's new per capita hospitalization rate is currently on par with the state average.

- CCHHS will begin publishing their report every 4 weeks instead of every 2 weeks. The next report will be published on Wednesday, December 15. More frequent data updates can be found on [their Facebook page](#) and [COVID-19 Data webpage](#).

COVID-19 links and resources:

- WDOH [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements](#)
- CCHHS [COVID-19 Reports & Presentations](#)
- WDOH [K-12 Isolation and Quarantine Decision Trees](#)
- Kelso School District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- **NEW:** Cowlitz County is 1 of 8 WA counties participating in the [Say Yes! COVID Test program](#), allowing residents to get free at-home test kits. [Learn more here](#). (NOTE: At-home tests are not acceptable proof of a negative result for coming back to school.)

SPECIAL FEATURE: Test to Stay Program

We are excited to announce the Department of Health has approved KSD as a site to implement the [Test to Stay](#) program. This program has been launched to keep healthy students in school as much as safely possible. You should have received [an email about it yesterday](#) which contains detailed information and [frequently asked questions](#).



Positive parent involvement is a key factor in the academic success of students. That is one reason parent-teacher conferences are so important. They are a wonderful opportunity to extend lines of communication between home and school, keep parents informed about their children's progress—both academic and social—and for developing cooperative strategies that can ultimately benefit every student.

Elementary conferences are going on now, and we are pleased to share that there were 1,774 individual secondary parent-teacher conferences earlier this month. Thank you for partnering with us in the growth and development of your children!



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

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District
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