

December 18, 2020

Dear Federal Way Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued commitment to our scholars! Each of you play important roles in the lives of the 23,000 scholars we serve, and I truly appreciate your dedication to supporting their learning, even in difficult circumstances.

On December 16, Governor Inslee, OSPI Superintendent Chris Reykdal, and the Washington Department of Health (WSDOH) released updated guidance for school reopening plans based on new data showing schools can reopen safely. The state guidance we've been following is that we had to be below the threshold of 75 cases per 100,000 over a 14-day period in order to return to a hybrid model of in-person instruction.

The new guidance has three categories of COVID-19 activity levels defined, with recommendations for each category as follows:

- If the transmission rate is **high**, defined as **greater than 350 cases per 100K over 14 days**, the recommendation is to phase-in in-person instruction in **groups of 15 or fewer students**, prioritizing grades PreK-5 and those with the highest need.
- If the transmission rate is **moderate**, defined as **50-350 cases per 100K over 14 days**, then the recommendation is **to phase-in in-person learning, prioritizing Elementary and Middle school scholars.**
- If the transmission rate is **low**, defined as **less than 50 cases per 100K over 14 days**, then schools may begin **full time in-person instruction for all scholars.**

As of today, December 18 at 8:30 a.m., the latest data available from the King County COVID data dashboard indicates the Federal Way rate per 100,000 between December 2-December 16 is **792 – much higher than King County** as a whole and in the high category of this new guidance.

For Federal Way Public Schools, this new guidance means:

- We'll begin school in January with 100% remote learning.
- We'll continue to closely monitor the data and do comprehensive planning and preparation (health & safety protocols, transportation, systems of instruction, and more) recognizing it will take 6-8 weeks (late February or early March) to transition from remote learning to face-to-face instruction for our earliest learners, PreK-1st grade and small group instruction for our students who need additional supports across the district.

As always, we'll continue to keep our staff and families informed all along the way.

Let's take time to reflect and recharge during this Winter Break and come back ready in 2021!



**FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Each Scholar: A voice. A dream. A **BRIGHT** future.

Office of the
SUPERINTENDENT

Sincerely,

Tammy Campbell

Dr. Tammy Campbell, Superintendent