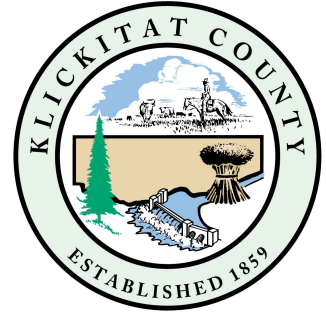


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Klickitat County Public Health
Contact: Erinn Quinn
Director, Klickitat County Health Department
www.klickitatcounty.org



KLICKITAT COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW GUIDANCE ON EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Klickitat County Health Department continues ongoing support and encourages community involvement

Goldendale, WA, AUGUST 7, 2020 – On Wednesday, Governor Jay Inslee announced education recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) for resuming in-person instruction in public and private K - 12 education for the upcoming 2020 - 2021 school year.

Similar to the state's county-by-county phased approach to reopening, the plan provides a framework to guide school administrators with the support of the local health jurisdiction to make informed decisions about how and when students and staff can safely return to in-person learning.

This framework includes several different considerations for deciding whether or not to return to in-person learning and defines three categories of COVID-19 transmission levels, as measured by the incidence of cases per 100,000 residents over a two week period: **High risk**, moderate risk and low risk. When COVID-19 infection rates in a community are high, the state & public health strongly recommend that schools consider distance learning.

Klickitat County currently falls into the **High Risk** category, with a rate of 93.6 newly diagnosed cases during the prior two weeks per 100K of population (data current as of 4 AUG 20). The distribution of cases and community transmission is not uniform across Klickitat county, with the more rural areas being at lower risk. Schools in high risk communities are strongly encouraged to consider distance learning, with exceptions for in-person learning for small groups of students with the highest need in addition to cancelling in-person extracurricular activities.

Details of the governor's recommendation can be found on the Klickitat County website:
<http://klickitatcounty.org/1255/Schools>

About Klickitat County Public Health

Klickitat County Public Health is always working for a safer and healthier community. As the region's public health leader and partner, we are committed to excellence through innovative programs, community partnerships and a fundamental dedication to promote and protect the health of all Klickitat County residents.

###

For More Information:

Klickitat County Public Health: www.klickitatcounty.org/289/Public-Health

Klickitat Valley Health: www.kvhealth.net

Skyline Health: www.myskylinehealth.org

Northshore Medical Group: www.northshore-medical.com

COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard:

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard>