

2021-2022 COVID-19 Safety Plan (spring quarter)

Plan will be reassessed if COVID-19 conditions change or if guidance changes during the quarter. The most current plan is posted on the COVID-19 Resource webpage.

Are face masks required on campus in spring quarter?

Individuals have the choice to wear a face mask inside buildings on campus, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected.

Some individuals may choose to continue wearing a face mask or may need to wear a face mask because they or a member of their household is high risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Individuals who are immunocompromised, medically fragile and/or otherwise high risk for severe disease should consult their health care provider about whether or not to continue wearing well-fitted face masks.

While face masks are no longer required in buildings on the campus, there may be situations when the use of well-fitting masks may be temporarily required for individuals by the WA DOH and/or King County Public Health. Examples of these situations are:

1. When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and is returning to campus on days 6-10 of isolation (face mask not required if they have negative test).
2. When there is a cluster and/or outbreak in an area on campus the Highline College COVID Case Investigation team will work with the WA DOH/King County Public Health to determine if a group of individuals will be required to wear face masks for a period of time. In some cases, face masks may be required to be worn universally on campus for a period of time.
3. If COVID-19 levels increase in the community to sustained red zone/high transmission level face masks will be required universally on campus. Sustained will be determined by King County Public Health and the WA Department of Health with face masks being implemented at that point or when trending determines.

The college supports students, employees, visitors, volunteers, and vendors who choose to wear a face mask and those who do not. It is up to the individual to decide.

Who should consider continuing to wear a face mask?

Everyone should evaluate if continuing to wear a face mask is the best decision for themselves. With the availability of well-fitted face masks each individual now has the ability to provide a much higher level of protection than a cloth face mask. Additional information on ways to protect yourself with a well-fitted/higher-level face mask and ensure your mask fits properly is found at: [Masks and Respirators \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/masks/) and [Improve How Your Mask Protects You | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/masks/improve-mask-use/)

Some individuals will decide only to wear a face mask in crowded areas.

Do I need to socially distance from others?

No. As a vaccinated campus (that allows exemptions) we are not required to socially distance.

- Classroom: there are no restrictions on seating.
- Library and other areas: there are no restrictions on seating.
- Individual offices: there are no restrictions, but Zoom/use of conference rooms/larger spaces continues to be an option.

Will face shields be available? Individuals who would like the extra protection of a face shield (worn with a face mask) can continue to pick up a free shield at Public Safety.

Gel-in!

Hand sanitizer will be available in building entrances. Individuals are encouraged to use hand sanitizer or a restroom to wash hands throughout the day.

Drinking/Eating

Additional areas on campus are now available to eat/drink. Areas may not allow food/drink, or they may have specific restrictions, please check with individual areas.

Disinfection When an infectious COVID-19 (determined through case investigation) has been inside a building on campus for more than 15 minutes within the past 24 hours the area will be immediately closed for disinfection and reopened normally in 2 days. Any individuals who were determined to have been in close contact will be notified by case investigators.

Sneeze Guards

Plexiglass will continue to be kept in place in high volume areas.

PPE and COVID Supplies

Well-fitting masks:

1. Disposable surgical face masks (worn under a cloth face mask) will continue to be available on campus for students, employees, volunteers, and visitors. These can be picked up in building 6, 8, 30 and the library.
2. KN95 face masks are provided for employees upon request*

Disinfectant wipes/spray: provided to areas upon request*

Face shields: available from Public Safety.

*Please have one designated individual from each department order using the [Employee Request for COVID-19 Safety Supplies Process](#).

Immunization Attestation

Students, employees, and volunteers will continue to be required to complete the immunization attestation through ctcLink.

Feeling Sick?

Each individual is responsible to do a self-check of their COVID-19 health prior to coming on campus. Individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms are **required** to stay off campus and are recommended to get a COVID-19 test/see a health care provider and follow the return to work/school protocol accordingly.

If you have symptoms a COVID test is recommended before returning to campus, isolation protocols are **required** to be followed when the test is positive.

Students and faculty are asked to work together to encourage individuals with COVID-19 symptoms to stay off campus.

COVID-19 Testing

Free COVID-19 testing is available on the campus and/or in the community to provide regular testing or testing when symptomatic.

Test positive for COVID-19?

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are **required** to isolate and cannot come on campus. If the individual has been on campus within the last week they are asked to report this information to the COVID-19 case investigation team using an [online form](#).

To return to campus individuals must complete the isolation period. The isolation period is ten full days from start of symptoms or date of positive test. Individuals may return to campus after 5 days of isolation if:

1. Symptoms have improved or asymptomatic, AND
2. Without a fever for past 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.

AND if returning to campus days 6-10, the individual is **required** to:

1. Wear a KN95 facemask or other well-fitting face mask*, OR
2. Test negative with an antigen or at-home test any day after day five before returning without a mask. Testing beyond day ten is not necessary.

If the individual is not able to wear a well-fitted face mask, AND does not test negative, they are **required** to continue isolation through the end of their isolation period.

*cloth face mask is not acceptable, the face mask must be a well-fitted mask such as a KN95, N95, KF84 or a surgical face mask worn under a cloth face mask

COVID-19 Vaccination Accommodation

Students and employees with approved COVID vaccination accommodation for medical or religious reasons are not required to have weekly COVID testing at the current transmission levels King County is sustaining but are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask inside buildings. Following WA DOH and King County Public Health guidance if levels increase to high this could be reinstated at any point in spring quarter.

Events on Campus

Spring quarter events on campus require:

1. permission of the area vice president
2. review of COVID-19 safety measures with the public health director

Rentals on Campus

1. Contact conference Services on campus

See next page for additional information.

COVID-19 Spring Quarter Safety Plan Information:

1. Layered Approach to COVID-19 Safety

We currently have high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections resulting in greatly reduced risk of medically significant disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 for most people.

At the same time, we know that some people and communities, such as our oldest citizens, people who are immunocompromised, unvaccinated and people with disabilities, are at higher risk for serious illness and face challenging decisions navigating a world with COVID-19.

We also acknowledge the importance of providing extra safety measures, including measures specifically for individuals who want to have a higher level of protection.

This has resulted in a layered approach to COVID-19 safety, including many measures that are not required, but Highline College continues to provide in their commitment to safety.

Examples of this layered approach are:

- Vaccinations required with 93.8% of students fully vaccinated and 95.5% of employees.
- Emphasis is placed on staying home if you are sick and getting a COVID-19 test before returning to campus.
- Case Investigation team provides a rapid response when an individual has been infectious with COVID-19 on campus.
- Disinfection of high-touch common surfaces on campus, and deep disinfection when an infectious COVID-19 has been in an area within the past 24 hours.
- Well-fitting/higher-level face masks are encouraged for individuals on campus to provide better protection than cloth face masks. These will continue to be supplied on campus.
- COVID-19 free testing is provided on campus and in the community.
- Hand-sanitizer is provided in entrances of buildings.
- Sneeze guards (plexiglass) are in high volume areas.
- Face shields are available to employees and students upon request from Public Safety.

2. Transmission (case) Levels, Hospitalizations and Deaths

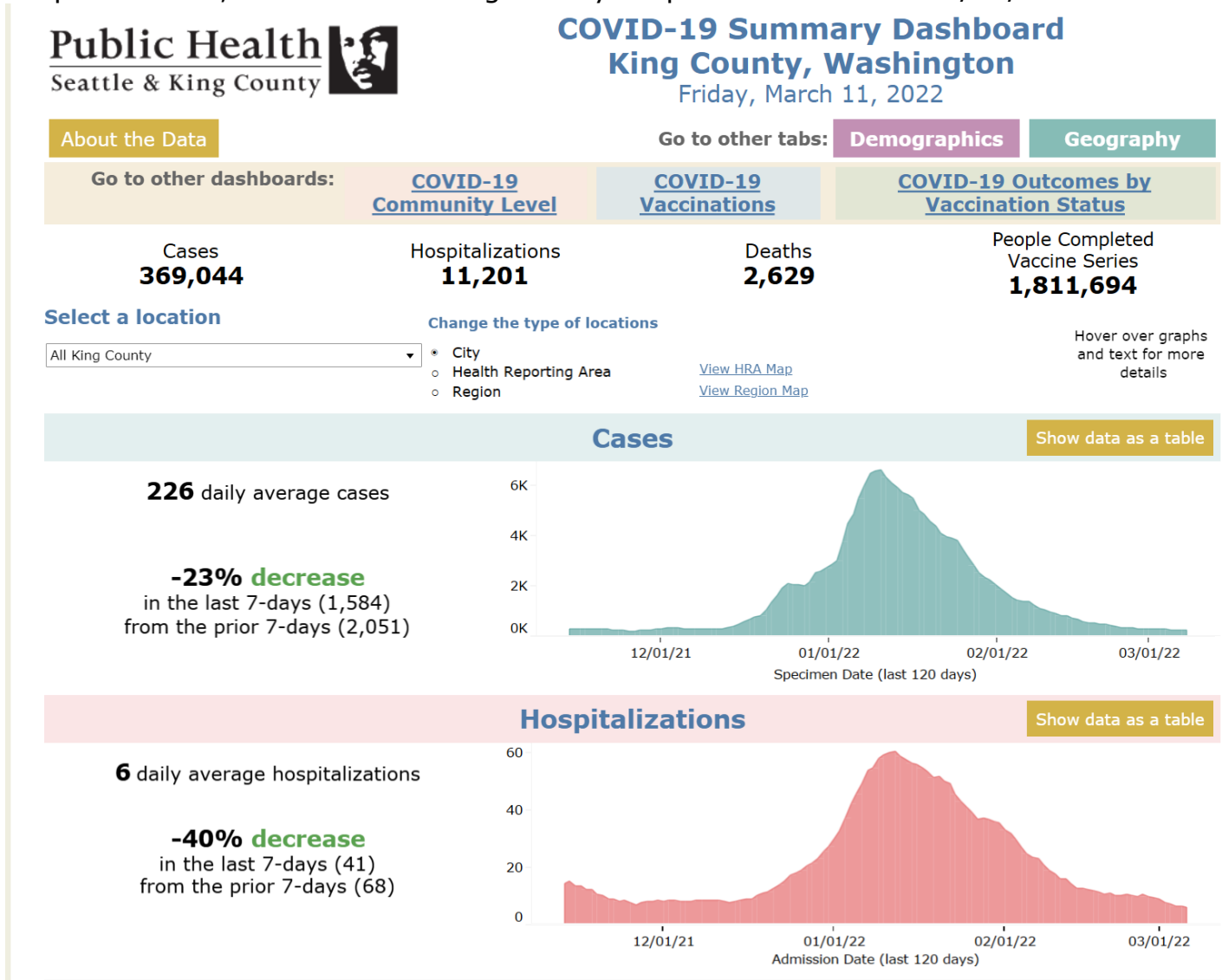
Although the previous high/substantial/moderate/low transmission levels that guided COVID-19 safety for the Washington State has changed to a broader approach to assessing risk.

Transmission (case) levels, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19 have been trending downward, data is provided below. (although there are some ups/downs the trend continues downward)

The data is collected from counties throughout Washington State and provided to the WA DOH, King County Public Health and the CDC. Depending upon the date compiled the graphs can vary, but all represent a downward trend.

Depending upon the graphic the scale may be on the previous transmission level (high/substantial/moderate/low) or on the new scale (low, medium, high).

[King County Public Health](#) graphic demonstrates the steadily declining rates in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in King County. Represents data as of 3/11/22.

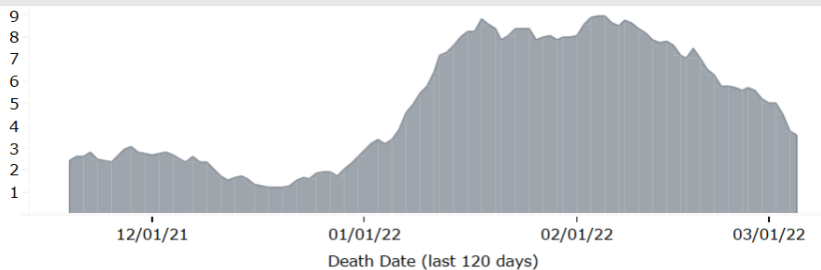


Deaths

Show data as a table

4 daily average deaths

-49% decrease
in the last 14-days (50)
from the prior 14-days (98)



The [WA Department of Health](#) provides information on statewide and individual county levels of current transmission level (cases), hospitalizations and deaths. The below graphic demonstrates the steadily declining rates. Rates are steadily decreasing in the Highline College service area with transmission level in orange <100 per 100,000. Throughout the state levels are decreasing with most areas in moderate, a few in high and a few having entered low. Represents period 2/23/22-3/2/22.

Current Status
Epidemiologic Curves
Cumulative Counts
Demographics
Testing
COVID-like Illness Hospitalizations
Healthcare System Readiness
Vaccinations

COVID-19 IN WASHINGTON STATE

DATA AS OF 03/10/2022 11:59PM PT

The Current Status tab provides a snapshot of statewide and county-level COVID-19 information. The 7-day case rate and percent hospital occupancy measures are presented for the most recent 7-day period with complete data. The fully vaccinated total population measure provides the most recent account of people in Washington who completed the recommended number of COVID-19 vaccinations. [Learn More](#)

State Summary

79 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

10% OF HOSPITAL BEDS OCCUPIED BY COVID-19 PATIENTS

67% OF TOTAL POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED

● Low
● Moderate
● Substantial
● High

TREND IN 7-DAY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

Specimen Collection Date

Cases from the last 8 days are not reported

7-DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

Measurement Period: 2/23/2022-3/2/2022

Click on the map for county data

TOTAL POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED

Measurement Period: 12/15/2020-03/09/2022

Click on the map for county data

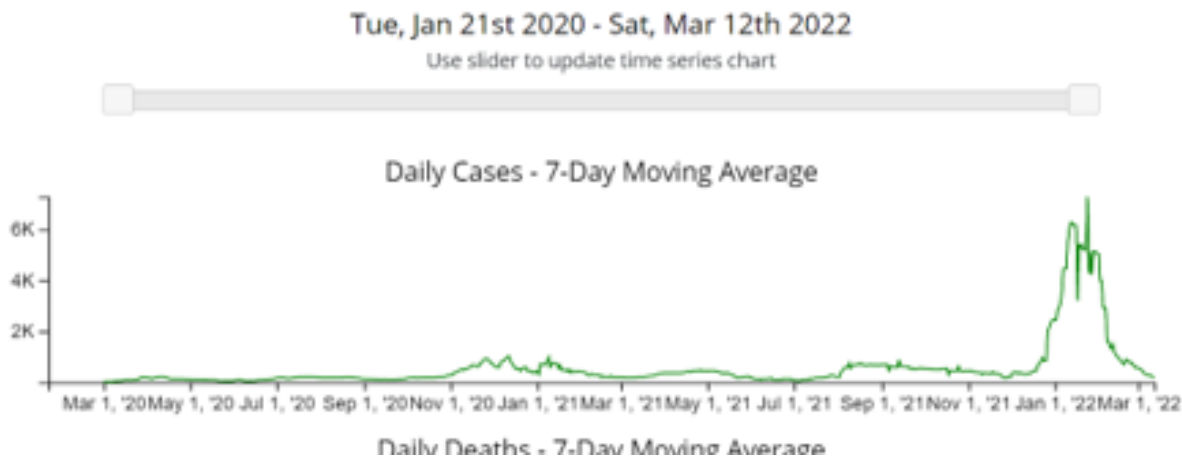
81 cases in the measurement period do not have an assigned county

71,365 people fully vaccinated do not have a county reported

County-level information can be found on Local Health Jurisdiction ([LHJ](#)) websites

The [CDC data](#) represents 3/6/22 – 3/12/22 and has the most current information.

As of 3/12/22 we have entered the moderate level of transmission. This is less than 50 cases per 100,000 in a 7 day period.

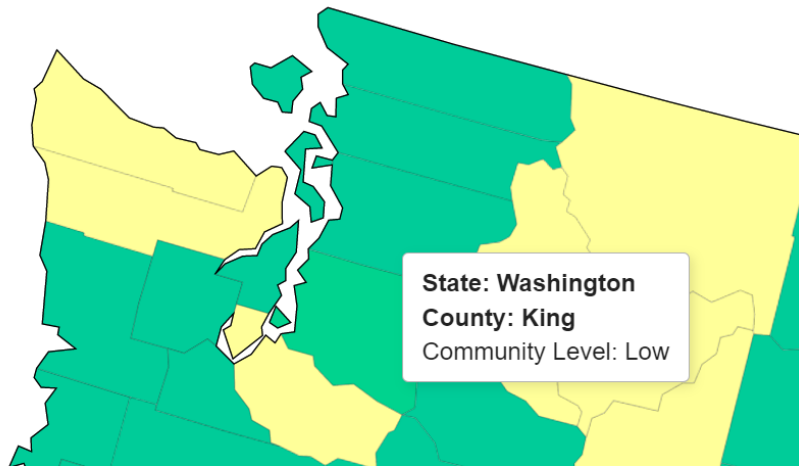


3. King County is in the “green level”

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) guide new framework that moves from basing decisions on transmission levels to evaluation of three factors that reflect the severity of disease.

1. New hospitalizations for COVID-19
2. Current hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients or hospital capacity
3. New COVID-19 cases (transmission levels)

Data assessed on 3/10/22 for the period 3/3/22-3/9/22.



Although King County is currently in the “green level,” the Highline College safety plan considers several other factors with emphasis continuing on transmission levels in King County and the ability to provide a layered approach to COVID-19 safety on campus.

The data provided in the previous graphs is reflective of a period in March and is expected to have increases/decreases.

COVID-19 Questions/Resources

- a. COVID safety questions send them to COVID19response@highline.edu
- b. Visit Highline College COVID-19 information at [COVID-19 » Highline College](#)
You will find “Frequently Asked Questions”, information on Bias and Harassment, Health and Wellness, Leave Options, where to get a vaccination, Highline College COVID19 Safety Plans and more on the college webpage.
- c. If you have questions about what to do if you have a positive COVID-19 test, what isolation or quarantine mean, latest research, where to get a vaccination, current status of COVID-19 in the community and more COVID-19 information:
 - ✦ King County Public Health [COVID-19 information and resources for King County, WA - King County](#)
 - ✦ Washington Department of Health [COVID-19 :: Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - ✦ Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)
 - ✦ John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center [Home - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource](#)