



Grays Harbor Public Health

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Grays Harbor School Leadership,

On December 16th, the Department of Health release publication 821-120 *Tools to Prepare for Provision of In-Person Learning among K-12 Students at Public and Private Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. This document reflects the following changes to previous guidance:

- The Department of Health (DOH) revised the metrics to inform local decisions around the provision of in-person learning and the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in school environments. These revisions were based on emerging research and data gathered by state and national officials.
- These changes include revisions to the COVID-19 incidence rates for school administrators and school boards to consider when making decisions about who to prioritize in-person learning for and further clarifies trends in cases and hospitalizations to inform local leaders in making decisions around in person learning.
- DOH defined a maximum 'small group' size of 15 for learning when disease activity is high and defined our 'youngest learners'.
- DOH moved away from a 'decision tree.' This toolkit now includes two checklists that ensure readiness to implement all required DOH Health and Safety Measures and LNI requirements, and a matrix that summarizes our recommendations for the provision of in-person learning based on the community's metrics. The introduction and background sections were updated to reflect the rationale for the changes.

It is my recommendation that all K-12 schools and Grays Harbor College follow all state guidance as provided by the Department of Health.

This letter replaces and supersedes any prior letter, or communication related to school guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,


Dr. John Bausher Health Officer
Grays Harbor County Health Officer