



Grays Harbor Public Health

PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520

PHONE: (360) 532-8631
TDD: (360) 532-8657

FAX: (360) 533-6272
FAX: (360) 533-1983

Grays Harbor School Leadership,

We have assessed our testing, case investigations, and ability to monitor community spread to address the questions posed in the Department of Health 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*.

At this time, I believe there is adequate access to testing in the community health system for ill students and staff. Currently there are a number of options for testing in Grays Harbor County, with an estimate of 6,900 tests performed for the month of January. We have confirmed that we have the capacity to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring within schools.

Grays Harbor County Public Health can and does monitor the level of community spread to determine if a change in education modality is needed. We are currently sharing transmission numbers on a bi-weekly basis.

These processes are contingent on each and every school's compliance with its responsibilities as set forth in Washington Administrative Code 246-101-420. Such responsibilities include but are not limited to notifying the health department of cases and suspected cases that may be associated with the school, and cooperating with the health department in the investigation of cases and suspected cases.

It is important to note that the opinions on these questions are what they are *at this time*, and we reserve the right to change our opinions on any and all of these questions as the situation develops.

Sincerely,


Health Officer

Dr. John Bausher
Grays Harbor County Health Officer