

***NEW:*** Links for the each day's video and the KCPHD YouTube channel will now be included at the bottom of each transcript.

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH  
DAILY VIDEO UPDATE  
Friday, August 14, 2020

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Good afternoon. It's Mark Larson on Friday afternoon. I'll talk about COVID-19 in Kittitas County.

We continue to get cases coming in, some related to large events that have happened, some related to people working in local businesses that are open in Phase 3. So we continue to have community-wide spread.

My concern in trying to get schools open is that we're still doing things like having barbecues, going to rodeos, and other things that would be normal in a regular time. But these things will make it really difficult to get school started again.

We're at 100.9 cases per 100,000 for 14 days and we're still getting between four and six new COVID-19 cases daily. That's keeping the level up there. We need to get below 75 cases per 100,000 for 14 days to allow us to really have a chance of school starting safely.

Most of the school districts have decided to start with online only. They want to see how that goes, with the numbers hopefully going down.

The Kittitas School District school board made a decision last night to start totally in person. Superintendent Mike Nollan, Heather Berfine [sp?] and I have been in conversations today. We'll meet at the schools on Monday, trying to find a way for them to do this safely. They have to make a petition to Public Health to say why they think they can open safely, despite the numbers being high, and what they need to do to mitigate the risk. That will include masking everyone, six foot social distancing, etc. In talking with Heather, one of the issues is that if all the students come back, there's no way they can keep six foot social distancing.

They will be working on that all weekend, and I will work with

them next week. There will be a lot of fine tuning. They will also be working on their online plans. When we have cases in a school, especially with the incidence rate as high as it is, we have to remove some kids from school, quarantine and isolate some folks, and if the numbers are high enough, shut the school down again. We hope to see some of their plans happen in order to mitigate that risk.

My ask to you this weekend is to *not* consider things as being normal, but to instead consider how your behavior affects others. We want to get schools going again. To do that, we have to bring the numbers down. When schools are open again, parents can get back to work, and our economy can pick back up again.

Everything is related. Just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we *have* to do something. Remember to be kind.

Thanks a lot. See you next week. Bye.

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Today's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsJsiKp0I28>

KCPHD channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQzBwJLbLj7WueKJ5w7mQ/>