



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Schelli Slaughter, MHA  
Director

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

October 29, 2020

Dear Thurston County Superintendents and Heads of Schools,

On October 14, 2020, in response to increased transmission rates in Thurston County, I recommended a 14-day pause for additional in-person learning while determining the trajectory in COVID-19 transmission within our county. Thurston County crossed the high transmission threshold (>75 cases/100K over 14 days) using the [Washington State Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) on Friday, October 23, 2020. I will continue to monitor transmission rates in our county for a full incubation period. I am currently recommending extending the pause through November 6, 2020. If transmission rates remain above 75 cases/100,000 population over 14 days for a majority of those days, I will recommend a return to distance learning for all students with the exception of cohort groups of five students with the highest need.

This is a dynamic situation with inherent uncertainties going into winter where we traditionally see an increase in viral respiratory illnesses of all types. I will continue to look at rates and patterns of transmission within our community and provide guidance based on the best available data. I commend all of you for your efforts to keep those who work and learn in our schools safe in a rapidly changing and unprecedented circumstances.

Sincerely,

Dimyana Abdelmalek MD, MPH  
Thurston County Health Officer

