

# Winter Update

## Last Call: Complete the VEA Survey!

Thank you to the nearly 700 VEA members who have already responded to [the survey](#) sent out last week! **If you haven't yet, please provide your input and complete [the survey](#) by 2 PM TODAY a (minor extension from previous communication).** We appreciate you updating us on your experience and perspective since the last VEA survey in November.

As we continue to collaborate with VPS around Dept. of Health, Labor and Industries, and OSPI guidance for reopening schools, VEA wants to ensure our advocacy represents your most up-to-date needs and interests. Your feedback will continue to help guide subsequent agreements or actions and responses will remain anonymous.

## VPS & CCPH COVID Case Updates

Since CPH no longer has the capacity to post positive cases in schools (now only posting outbreaks), VEA will attempt to provide at least a weekly update to members to include VPS cases as well as the weekly case count for Clark County as a whole.

### Since January 1, 2021, VPS has reported:

#### NEW! Monday, 2/1:

- positive case at Discovery MS, close contacts

#### NEW! Sunday, 1/31:

- positive case at Roosevelt ES, no close contacts

#### Tuesday, 1/26:

- 2 positive cases at King ES, close contacts

#### Tuesday, 1/19:

- positive case at Chinook, close contacts

#### Monday, 1/18:

- positive case at Lake Shore, close contacts

#### Wednesday, 1/13:

- positive case at JPC, close contacts with staff
- positive case at Chinook ES, close contacts with students

#### Sunday, 1/10:

- presumed positive at Truman ES from 1/8 was confirmed negative

#### Friday, 1/8:

- positive case at Jefferson MS, no close contacts;
- positive case at Skyview HS, no close contacts;
- positive case at Truman ES, close contacts with staff and students, one class will learn remotely

#### Thursday, 1/7:

- positive case at Hudson's Bay HS, no close contacts
- positive case at Columbia River HS, no close contacts
- positive case at Fort Vancouver HS, close contact with staff (no students)

#### Saturday, 1/2:

- 2 positive cases at Washington ES, no close contacts

### Since January 1, 2021, CPH has reported:

Feb 2: [TBA later today on the CPH website](#)

Jan 26: **401.23** cases per 100,000

Jan 19: **473.69** cases per 100,000

Jan 11: **397.95** cases per 100,000

Jan 4: **324.87** cases per 100,000

## Black Lives Matter at School Week

In honor of Black History Month, you've likely seen the Black Lives Matter at School Action Week endorsed and promoted by the [NEA](#) and [WEA](#) in the form of publications and instructional resources. VEA also encourages members to explore and consider incorporating the following resources into authentic opportunities for student discourse (previously shared in the February Action Line):

- [Teaching for Change](#): multilevel resources and book recommendations
- [BLM at School Resource Toolkit](#) from Rochester City Schools
- [BLM at School Google Slides](#) from a Washougal educator/Human & Civil Rights Conference facilitator
- [Anti-Racist Art Teachers](#) website
- [National BLM at School Week of Action Starter Kit](#)

While some staff and community members may deem this topic "controversial," please note that Article 9.3 of the VEA/VPS contract supports members rights to academic freedom in alignment with School Board policies 6122 and 6123 and Article 9.4 also outlines our responsibility for objective scholarship. **Please do not hesitate to reach out to VEA leadership for reinforcement or support for these opportunities to meaningfully engage your students.**

## VEA's New & Returning Leaders

Nominations for several VEA leadership positions closed at last night's Rep Council meeting. Per VEA Standing Rule 401.2, "If no more than one candidate is nominated per position, the president will declare that candidate elected." Thank you and congratulations to the following new and returning VEA leaders:

- **President: Kari Van Nostran** (2-yr term),
- **1st VP: Lynn Maiorca** (2-yr term),
- **3rd VP in Charge of Member Engagement: Max Merchant** (2-yr term),
- **Treasurer: Shannon McClelland** (2-yr term),
- **Intermediate Trustee: Melissa Bergmann** (3-yr term) and
- **Middle School Trustee: Keith Lloyd** (3-yr term)!

VEA is also grateful to the following \*nominees for WEA Representative Assembly Delegate: Lynn Maiorca, Cam Swarts, Shelley Moody, Megan Christopher, Mason Quiroz, Jessica McCurdy, Christine Munson, Marina Heitz, Lisa White

\*Please note, VEA can send up to 27 delegates and we encourage any other interested members to utilize the "Write-In" option once our online election opens (February 12<sup>th</sup>). **WEA RA will be held virtually April 15-17, 2021.**

Thank you to the following \*\*nominees for NEA Representative Assembly Delegate as well: (One position filled by the President per Standing Rule 201.2), Jesse Affeldt, Johnny Askew, Marina Heitz, Shelley Moody, Lisa White, Charlene Shea

\*\*Please note, VEA can send up to 8 delegates and the "Write-In" option is also available for any other interested members. **A decision to hold NEA RA virtually has not yet been made; it is currently slated to be held in Denver, CO July 2-6, 2021.**

VEA will cover applicable costs associated with both events!