



Vancouver Education Association

Unity Strength Results

March 9, 2021

Spring Update

VPS & CCPH COVID Case Updates

VEA will continue to provide updates to members to include VPS cases as well as the weekly case count for Clark County. VPS is also providing public access to a [VPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). We encourage members to share these details with other colleagues and community members to support communication and transparency.

Since February 1, 2021, VPS has reported:

NEW! Tuesday, 3/9:

- **positive case at Jefferson MS, no close contacts, transmission location not school-based**

Wednesday, 3/4:

- positive case at Gaiser MS, no close contacts, transmission location not school-based
- *presumed* positive case at Lake Shore ES, close contacts with staff and a student, transmission location not school-based

Friday, 2/26:

- positive case at Marshall ES, close contacts

Saturday, 2/20:

- positive case at Marshall ES, close contacts with staff and students, transmission location not school-based

Wednesday, 2/10:

- positive case at Jefferson MS, close contacts, transmission location not school-based

Tuesday, 2/9:

- [King confirmed an "outbreak site," elaborated in this message](#)

Friday, 2/5:

- positive student case at Chinook ES, no close contacts, school-based transmission; [Chinook confirmed an "outbreak site," elaborated in this message](#)
- positive case at Gaiser MS, no close contacts, transmission location not school-based

Monday, 2/1:

- positive case at Discovery MS, close contacts

Reminder re: School Employee Vaccination Access

In case you missed the Monday, 3/8 message from VPS via work email, below is a reminder:

If you already completed a vaccine request form (via work email) last week through VPS, you should receive information about how to schedule a vaccination appointment from one of the healthcare partners (Kaiser, Legacy, PeaceHealth) in the next week. Please look for an email from one of the above providers (check your work email inbox as well as your spam/junk folder). *VPS staff members are not scheduling appointments.*

If you completed the form last week but have not yet been contacted by a health care provider OR you did not submit a vaccine request form last week but would like to submit one now, there is a [new form for you to fill out](#). Please double-check your information before submitting it to avoid processing or scheduling delays. **This week's survey will close at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10.** You will, however, have additional opportunities to request a vaccine in the future if you do not complete this form by the closing date.

School Board Meeting TONIGHT!

VPS Board Director Search Continues

Join us for TONIGHT'S VPS School Board Meeting, beginning at 5 PM!

When: Mar 9, 2021 05:00 PM

Topic: VPS Board Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/85801276741>

If you'd like to address the Board during the public comment section, please email VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org by NOON TODAY, 3/9.

Citizens wishing to address the Board via Zoom must submit their full name and address for the record along with their topic. Citizens will have three minutes to address the Board.

Also, as a reminder, the VPS School Board is seeking **applicants for the board of directors, position 2** (recently vacated by Camara Banfield following her appointment to Clark County Superior Court). *VEA encourages members to promote this opportunity among family and friends in the community, keeping in mind that to serve on the school board, one must live within the boundaries of Vancouver Public Schools and be eligible to vote. By law, school district employees and, in most instances, their spouses are not eligible to serve as board members.*

[Applications](#) are due to VPS by noon on Monday, 3/15.

Send a Gratitude-Gram through VEA!

Partner with VEA to help express your gratitude for other VEA

colleagues! Who has been the "Pot of Gold" at the end your rainbow? Who brings a smile to your face and puts little pep in your step? We want to help you express your gratitude in the form of a personalized postcard to a VEA member you would deem your "Pot of Gold."

Similar to the way we solicited requests for a postcard from Santa back in December, **your response to [this survey](#) will enable VEA to craft a "Gratitude-Gram" on your behalf to then send to your colleague through interoffice mail!** Thanks for taking advantage of this offer to send a positive message to those VEA colleagues who've helped us survive and thrive this school year! ***Please respond to the survey no later than Thursday, 3/11 at 5 PM to place your requests!***

Considering Retirement?

If you are planning to retire or separate at the end of the school year and want to take advantage of sick leave conversion, please **notify the District of your intention as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2021.**

For eligible employees, the sick leave conversion benefit allows accumulated, unused sick leave to be converted to monetary compensation at the rate of 25 percent of the full-time daily compensation rate for each full day of leave up to a maximum of 180 days (1440 hours). The funds generated by the sick leave conversion are placed into a VEBA account. Funds placed in a VEBA account may be used tax-free for eligible medical premiums and/or out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Before completing your [resignation form](#), be sure to review [information about determining the best retirement month](#). You may want to contact Department of Retirement regarding your specific situation by calling 800-547-6657 or to review your account online at www.drs.wa.gov.

Once you are certain about your retirement date, contact Nicole Dornan in the Benefits Office with your retirement date and request a retirement info packet. Email nicole.dornan@vansd.org or call 360.313.1083.

Additional advising is available to VEA members through Sandy Kokko (retired VPS educator and active member of WEA Retired: skokko@washingtonea.org) and/or Cassie Johnson (financial advisor with AIG/VALIC, free of charge through member benefits: cassie.johnson@aig.com).

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