

Washington State Family to Family Health Information Center



Newsletter #4 – June 2021

Thinking Ahead to the 2021-2022 School Year

Most schools will be reopening in full for the 2021-22 school year, but many questions remain. Will COVID vaccinations be required for teenagers returning to school? Will there still be options for at-home learning for students who want or need it? Have children learned enough over the past year to progress to the next grade level?

Due to the nature of the Washington educational system, answers to many of these questions will be answered school district by school district. To find out what your local school district is planning, visit the [OSPI Districts site](#) for a link to all 295 school districts in the state. Many districts are still in the process of planning for the next school year, which you can be a part of by submitting a public comment or virtually attending a school board meeting.

Many parents and students are worried about the lack of learning that occurred during the last school year. While some students thrived with remote learning, others were unable to focus on the lessons and “checked out” of school early in the school year. Keeping children healthy, both physically and mentally, during the pandemic became a priority over academic success. As a result, some students are not prepared to progress in their grade level come Fall. Repeating a grade often has an unfortunate stigma attached to it, but it is unlikely have a negative connotation this coming school year, as many children and families experience unprecedented hardship. Contact your child’s teacher and/or councilor to review the options to best support your child’s future education.

Telehealth Webinar Recordings Now Available

Telehealth came to the mainstream due to the COVID pandemic, but the end of the pandemic does not mean the end to telehealth. Many families and individuals recognized the usefulness of this type of distance medicine, especially when it came to specialists visits that were hours away. Health providers have also found that telehealth can be useful to their bottom line, while minimizing no-shows. For these reasons, many health insurance companies are keeping their telehealth options beyond the COVID pandemic. Apple Health (Washington State Medicaid) has decided to keep telehealth options and may expand the use of phone visits. While some visits still must be in person, and some people feel more comfortable getting medical care in a doctor’s office, telehealth is poised to take an increased role in the future of healthcare.

Because of this, Washington State F2F created two webinars to familiarize families with telehealth and telemedicine. The first, [“The Tools of Telehealth,”](#) reviews the equipment needed for a successful telehealth visit and how to use those tools. [“What to Expect in Your Telehealth Visit,”](#) explores a visit in-depth, with practical information and tips from a panel of telehealth users. Both are just over a half hour long and are intended to allay any concerns that individuals may have when dealing with this new method of health care delivery.

June 2021 Calendar

All events are free and on-line

[The Who, What, Why of the FYSPT](#) – June 8th

[Introduction to Housing Options](#) – June 8th

[PTI Training: Preparing for the 2021-22 School Year](#) – June 9th

[Child Neurology Foundation Transitions of Care Summit](#) – June 15-24th

[Pierce County Abilities Parade](#) – June 19th

[Washington Hands & Voices What’s Up Mondays](#) – June 21st