

10/6/20

Dear GHA Families,

Last week the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) gave further guidance to schools about Covid-19 cases in the county. In the guidance they stated that schools can make the final decision about remaining open for in-person learning. As such we are going to take a more holistic approach when determining whether we will use in-person learning or distance learning. Here are the factors that will be taken into consideration when making this decision:

- The number of positive cases in Pierce County. We will be looking for sustained high peaks like those we saw earlier in the summer.
- The number of positive cases in the Gig Harbor Area as reported by TPCHD. We will be looking at the proportion of cases that are in the Gig Harbor Area versus Pierce County as a whole.
- The number of students absences due to illnesses. We will be paying attention to whether there are any classes with a high percentage of students absent because of illness.

We will also remain in close contact with our partners at TPCHD and in other public and private schools to stay apprised of other trends in the area as a whole.

This new decision making process is not as black and white as our previous approach, but it allows us to include other factors that are important for our local area and school community. I will continue to make the announcement for the following week each Thursday afternoon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dominic Kehoe  
Head of School  
Gig Harbor Academy