



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19

Island County, January 6, 2021:

On January 5, Governor Inslee announced the [“Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery.”](#) This roadmap will replace the Safe Start phasing system and will go into effect Tuesday, January 15, 2021. This new recovery system aims to safely ease some restrictions while also maintaining crucial hospital capacity, ensuring care for Washingtonians that need it, and paving the way for economic recovery.

This new roadmap currently only contains two phases and phases are determined regionally. There are eight regions and Island County is in the North Region, which also includes Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties. It is likely all regions will begin in Phase 1. There are four metrics listed below that will be used to determine each region’s phase, and the State will update these metrics each Friday on the WA State Risk Assessment [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#). Regions can move both forwards and backwards in phasing. The Island County Public Health COVID-19 website will also be updated each Friday with the current phase.

The four metrics that the state will evaluate by region are:

- Two-week rate of COVID-19 cases per 100K population
- Two-week rate of new COVID-19 hospital admission rates per 100K population
- ICU occupancy (total — COVID-19 and non-COVID-19)
- COVID-19 test positivity rate

Phase 1 guidance is similar to current restrictions with some modifications:

- No indoor gatherings
- Outdoor gatherings limited to 10 or fewer
- No indoor dining

Please see the [guidance](#) for more information on the new Phase 1 restrictions. We expect updated guidance for individual sectors in the coming weeks.

See the Department of Health COVID-19 [website](#).

Island County Public Health – www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

Call Center # 360.678.2301, Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)