



COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
P: 360.678.6028

Bi-Weekly Bulletin

Date: May 29, 2020

Subject: Island County COVID-19 Response

Contact: Theresa Sanders, PIO

360.544.2242

t.sanders@islandcountywa.gov or pubhealth@islandcountywa.gov

Hannah Liss, Deputy PIO

217.725.5979

h.liss@islandcountywa.gov or pubhealth@islandcountywa.gov

Review of Current News and Updates

Numbers and data. At the time of this writing, Island County has 181 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 11 deaths. We added a new case in Oak Harbor, but it was not associated with our community-wide testing. We also are very sad to report an additional death and the first death for Camano Island.

We are working with the WA State Dept. of Health (DOH) on being able to embed state created dashboards on our website. These dashboards would provide Island County specific data. We are actively working on this and should have an update next week.

Community-wide testing. We concluded our drive-thru testing last week. This week, public health staff are working to test specific, high-risk populations in our community. Once all of our testing is complete, we will provide a more detailed report. At the time of this writing, all of the test results we have received have been negative. We have created a system by which community members can request written verification of their negative test results for return to work purposes. Community members can call the Public Health Call Center (360.678.2301) to make this request.

Clarification of Phase 2. It is important that the community continues to recognize that Phase 2 still includes social distancing, not gathering in groups greater than five, wearing cloth face coverings in public, and frequent hand washing. In many ways, as we start doing more, these infection control practices become even more important.

Additional guidance. The Governor's Office issued additional guidance this week for counties in Phase 2. Of note, [guidance](#) for religious and faith-based organizations was released on Wednesday and now allows indoor services of less than 50 people (provided that safety and health requirements can be met).

Changes to Safe Start reopening plan. The Governor announced today the expansion of [Safe Start](#)— Washington's Phased Reopening plan. The expansion comes as the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order ends midnight Sunday. The expansion moves Washington through the phased reopening on a county-by-county basis. With this new approach, counties will have more

flexibility to demonstrate they can safely allow additional economic activity based on targeted metrics.

Masking order. The Governor also announced today that beginning June 8, all employees will be required to wear a cloth facial covering, except when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site, or when the job has no in-person interaction. Employers must provide cloth facial coverings to employees, unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under the Department of Labor and Industries' safety and health rules and guidance. Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. Employers must also post signage at their place of business strongly encouraging customers to wear cloth facial coverings. Businesses are encouraged to require customers to wear cloth facial coverings, in order to protect employees from exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace.

Long term care facilities. As noted in the community-wide testing section, public health staff are working with our long term care facilities to help test both staff and residents. DOH issued an [order](#) that will require widespread testing within long term care facilities. Residents and staff in nursing homes will be tested within approximately two weeks, with a completion goal date of June 12. All residents and staff in assisted living facilities with a memory care unit will be tested within four weeks, with a completion goal date of June 26.

Reducing emergency response staff. A number of staff members on our emergency response team partially returned to their normal job duties this week. One important part of the Incident Command System is that it can expand or collapse as needed. The structure will continue to be modified based on the course of the emergency. At this time, we expect the recovery work to become more prominent in the response effort.

Misinformation in our community. Public health staff are getting a lot of communications filled with misinformation. This is normal, and we also want to encourage everyone to spread good information. Please help us refer the community to credible sources: [Washington State Coronavirus Response](#) and the [Washington State Dept. of Health](#).

Up and Coming.

- Completing community-wide testing.
- Preparing to apply to move to Phase 3 (we are required to be in Phase 2 for three weeks).
- Working with schools and businesses to clarify Phase 2 guidance and plan for reopening.
- Outreach related to the new masking order.