



COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
P: 360.678.6028

Weekly Bulletin

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Subject: Island County COVID-19 Response

Contact: Hannah Liss, Deputy PIO
360.544.2339
h.liss@islandcountywa.gov or pubhealth@islandcountywa.gov

Nicole Marley, PIO Staff
360.929.0100
N.Marley@islandcountywa.gov or pubhealth@islandcountywa.gov

Review of Current News and Updates

Numbers and data. At the time of this writing, Island County has 201 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 12 deaths.

The DOH Data Dashboard currently displayed on our [COVID-19 webpage](#) allows individuals to explore Island County COVID-19 data surrounding hospitalizations, case count changes over time, and testing. Staff are currently strategizing ways in which user access may be improved.

Testing. Incident Command staff and WhidbeyHealth partners recently discussed plans for improving COVID-19 testing availability within Island County. Our team is currently exploring opportunities to support WhidbeyHealth in their efforts to open testing to a wider range of patients beginning next week. WhidbeyHealth will share final details on Monday, which will be distributed by our PIO team immediately upon receipt. [Island Hospital](#) and [Skagit County Public Health](#) also offer COVID-19 testing, with drive-thru rapid testing held at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon.

Schools. The weekly Wednesday call with schools remains postponed until July 22, due to significant participant scheduling conflicts over the next several weeks. Staff remains in contact with local schools and continues to offer support as appropriate.

Phase 3. Island County is currently in [Phase 3](#) of the Safe Start Reopening Plan. Due to increasing COVID-19 activity across the state, Gov. Inslee and Secretary of Health Weisman have [placed a pause](#) on counties moving through phases of the Safe Start plan. Yesterday, Governor Inslee formally issued the extension of the Safe Start [proclamation](#) until Aug. 6. Employers are now also required to notify their local health jurisdictions within a 24-hour period if they suspect COVID-19 spread in their workplace, or if aware of two or more employees with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 within a 14-day period.

Avoid travel. Travel should be avoided to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. While Phase 3 does loosen travel restrictions, community members are strongly [discouraged from non-](#)

[essential travel](#), especially to counties in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Safe Start plan. For necessary travel, individuals should research the intended destination ahead of time by using the [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) and [Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) to assess COVID-19 exposure risk. It is also important that our community continues to wear cloth face coverings when in public and practice appropriate social distancing and proper hygiene.

Open public meetings. Yesterday, Governor Inslee signed The [Open Public Meetings Act extension](#), which suspends certain statutes in the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act involving time frames for responding to requests because of physical building closures due to COVID-19. It also lets public agencies in Phase 3 offer an in-person component to meetings that are held remotely, at their discretion.

Masking order. The statewide mandatory [public health order](#) requiring people to wear facial coverings in public settings remains in effect. The order allows for specific exemptions, including but not limited to:

- Individuals with certain medical conditions and children under the age of two, who should not wear a face covering,
- Individuals eating or drinking at a restaurant,
- Individuals communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing; and
- Individuals outdoors in public areas, provided that a distance of six feet is maintained from people who are not members of their household.

Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. The [masking guide](#) released by WA L&I is also helpful in explaining important differences between cloth face coverings, masks, and respirators.

Available Resources. A number of resources are currently available to Washingtonians that may help mitigate some negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Washington has launched the [Washington Listens](#) support program to help people manage elevated levels of stress due to the pandemic. The support line is available at 1.833.681.0211 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. TeleTYpe (TTY) and language access services are available by using 7-1-1 or their preferred method.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) has resumed accepting applications in response to the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act. The new deadline to apply for a PPP loan is Aug. 8. This loan is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep workers on the payroll.
- In response to the impact of COVID-19, drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots provide free, temporary emergency internet access for Washingtonians who don't have broadband service at their homes. A Wi-Fi mapping tool is available on the Washington State Department of Commerce [website](#).

The call center is staffed Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm (360.678.2301).

Up and Coming.

- May 2020 Epidemiology Report
- ICPH webpage tutorial video for improved data consumption