



COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

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Weekly Bulletin

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Subject: Island County COVID-19 Response

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Review of Current News and Updates

Numbers and data. At the time of this writing, Island County has 225 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 11 deaths. Thirty individuals have been added to the case count for the month of July, so far. Island County has not experienced an increase of this size since April (44 new cases). If the rate of 12-15 new cases a week continues, we will meet or exceed April counts.

Phase 3. Adjusted Safe Start Phase [restrictions](#) went into effect on Monday of this week. The number of individuals allowed in social gatherings during Phase 3 has been reduced to 10 people per week and a statewide ban has been placed on both indoor and outdoor live entertainment. These restrictions apply only to social gatherings. Funerals, weddings and religious activities are currently exempt from these requirements.

Governor Inslee announced additional Safe Start restrictions on July 23. A complete list of changes is available for review on the [Governor's Medium page](#). Effective July 30, a reduced occupancy limitation will be placed on restaurants and centers for fitness, entertainment, and recreation, with supplementary restrictions applying to each facility. Effective August 6, wedding and funeral receptions will be prohibited, with ceremonies limited to maximum indoor occupancy of 20%, or up to 30 people, whichever is less, as long as social distancing can be observed.

Masking order. The statewide mandatory [masking order](#) has been expanded to require face coverings in common spaces of apartment buildings, university housing, hotels and congregate settings. [This expansion](#) goes into effect tomorrow, July 25. Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. The [masking guide](#) released by WA L&I is also helpful in explaining differences between cloth face coverings, masks, and respirators.

Increasing COVID-19 spread. According to the July 17 DOH [Situation Report](#), COVID-19 transmission continues to increase or accelerate across most of Washington State and will continue to do so unless concrete steps are taken to stop the spread. In both eastern and western Washington, cases are increasing fastest among 20-29 year olds and are growing in both younger and older age groups around them.

DOH COVID-19 death reporting. The Department of Health has [expanded reporting](#) on COVID-19 deaths to better identify whether COVID-19 caused or contributed to a particular death. Non-COVID-19 deaths have been removed from the statewide total and overall data has been broken down into specific categories. Death classifications now include the following: confirmed deaths, pending deaths, suspect deaths, and non-COVID-19 deaths.

COVID-19 webpage resources. Changes to the COVID-19 webpage will be taking place throughout the next few weeks in an effort to update data presentation and improve resource accessibility. Staff are currently completing the webpage training necessary to implement scheduled changes. The Department of Health has been contacted with a request to create a compatible version of the [Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) for the ICPH webpage.

Testing. WhidbeyHealth continues to offer drive-thru COVID-19 [swabbing stations](#) in Clinton, Coupeville, and Oak Harbor. Individuals interested in being tested must pre-register by calling the hotline at 360.240.4055; Monday through Friday between 7 am and 5 pm. [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 call with schools resumed this week, following a recent hiatus due to participant scheduling conflicts. Schools have requested additional input from ICPH regarding “back-to-school” planning. Keith and staff are working with each district to identify needs and address them appropriately.

Avoid travel. 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.

Eviction moratorium. The state’s eviction moratorium [has been extended](#) until October 15. A work group comprised of landlords and tenants will be formed by Governor’s Office staff to discuss potential changes to the order as the pandemic progresses.

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

- Island County has been awarded funds under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). Individuals and families impacted by COVID-19 should complete the [online referral form](#) or call the Human Services Help Line at 360.678.2346 to learn more.
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) will [offer services remotely](#) until Sept. 30. In lieu of in-person visits, WIC may enroll new applicants, provide nutrition education and breastfeeding support and issue food benefits by phone or video chat.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) has resumed accepting applications. The new deadline to apply for a PPP loan is Aug. 8. This is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep workers on the payroll.

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