



## COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

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### Weekly Bulletin

**Date:** August 7, 2020

**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 248 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 11 deaths.

**COVID-19 webpage resources.** Changes to the [Island County Public Health COVID-19 webpage](#) will continue to take place in an effort to update data presentation and improve resource accessibility. Staff have not yet received a reply from DOH regarding the request for a compatible version of the [Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) for the ICPH COVID-19 webpage. Recent changes to our webpage include:

- New Island County key metrics table (pulled from the DOH Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard)
- New case investigation and contact tracing performance metrics table
- New press release archive page
- New community guidance archive page

**Phase 3.** Over the last few weeks, a number of adjusted Safe Start Phase restrictions have gone into effect. Governor Inslee released a [memorandum](#) on the [Reopening Guidance webpage](#) clarifying the series of changes. The number of individuals allowed in social gatherings during Phase 3 is now 10 people per week and a statewide ban has been placed on all live entertainment. A reduced occupancy limitation has been placed on restaurants and centers for fitness, entertainment, and recreation, with supplementary restrictions applying to each facility. Effective August 10, 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](#) is still in effect. 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 August 7 DOH [Situation Report](#), growth in new cases may be slowing overall. A slight deceleration in growth of new cases has been noted for western WA, with a more confident deceleration estimated for eastern WA. While growth in new cases may be slowing overall, diverging trends in older and younger populations are mentioned in the report. Throughout WA, cases are increasing in the 40-69 and 70+ age groups. It is important to assess trends by age because the risk of hospitalization and death is markedly higher for older individuals.

**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.** On August 5, Governor Inslee released [education recommendations](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance provides customized recommendations for high, moderate, and low risk counties- determined by the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a two-week period. Island County is currently in the moderate range, with 27.1 new cases per 100,000 residents over two-week period. Island County staff continue to provide support to Island County schools, including the weekly call that takes place each Wednesday.

**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.

- Washington State Department of Commerce is distributing approximately \$100 million in "CARES" Act funding to operate a [new rent assistance program](#) launched Aug. 1. The program will focus on preventing evictions by paying up to three months of past due, current and future rent to landlords for eligible participants. Rent assistance is limited to three months and the program ends Dec. 31, 2020.
- 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 call center is staffed Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm (360.678.2301).**