



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 329 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 12 deaths. This week's attached data sheet reflects a decrease in rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 from 38.91 to 29.47 for 9/20/20 to 10/03/20. DOH recently released a new [Statewide Outbreak Report](#), identifying food service/restaurant, retail/grocery, and agriculture/produce packing among the top three outbreak settings reported.

Webpage changes. The Island County Public Health COVID-19 webpage is continuously updated as feedback from our community members evolves. This week, a focus on visualization reorganization took place, as well as the addition of new case rate graphs and a case count comparison table. A [new data edition](#) of the updated community guidance was also widely distributed to community members and made available on the [community guidance archive](#). Moving forward, community feedback will continue to be monitored, with changes to the webpage implemented monthly.

Updated Guidance. Governor Inslee recently released several updates to guidance housed under the [Safe Start](#) reopening plan, effective immediately. A complete list of updated guidance is available on the Governor's reopening webpage. Some recent changes are listed below for your convenience.

- Libraries are permitted to provide limited in-person services to customers at 50% of maximum building occupancy or lower. See the complete [guidance here](#).
- Youth and Adult Sports [guidance](#) will allow more school and non-school sports, both indoor and outdoor, according to a combination of local metrics. At this time, additional Island County restrictions remain in place regarding number of participants and interaction with external counties.

- Movie theaters in Phase 3 counties will allow for occupancy at 50%, provided attendees follow social distancing and masking requirements. See the complete [guidance here](#).
- [Restaurant guidance](#) has shifted the alcohol restriction from 10 pm to 11 pm, removed the household member restriction for indoor dining, and increased table size to 8 in Phase 3.
- The number of [wedding reception](#) attendees has been expanded to 50 for Phase 3 counties.
- Under [miscellaneous venues guidance](#), outdoor retail event shows may have up to 200 attendees.
- [Real estate requirements](#) now allow for open houses with limited attendance.
- [Updated guidance](#) is available for races, bicycle tours and rides, runs, cross country skiing races, biathlons, canoe and kayak races, marathons, cross country running competitions, triathlons, and multi-sport competitions with more than 12 participants.
- [Updated guidance](#) is available for water recreation facilities related to reopening requirements and occupancy limitations.

Local COVID-19 vaccination planning update. A framework for the written plan has been developed, with ongoing revisions intended to take place as CDC and DOH guidance is updated. The establishment of an advisory committee for plan development is underway; with potential partners having been identified from groups including WhidbeyHealth, NASWI, pediatric practices, private medical practices, pharmacies (local and chain), Human Services, Long Term Care facilities and EMS services. The team is working toward identifying communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in an effort to directly include these groups in the planning process. Planning is currently developing agreements with several partners to act as locations for receiving and storing vaccines, including preparation for the storage and handling of ultra-cold vaccines.

Flu vaccine. While we do not yet have an available COVID-19 vaccine, we can all take action to get our flu vaccines! As we move into [flu season](#), we can all help save healthcare resources for the COVID-19 response in our communities by doing our part to prevent illness and hospitalizations caused by flu. We will be working in partnership with both state and local resources for flu vaccine messaging this season.

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

- As the economic impacts of COVID-19 continue, more families are taking advantage of free meals provided by school districts. While all students may be provided free meals through the end of December, families are strongly encouraged to complete a School Meal Application now. This application determines a student's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Read more [here](#).
- The WA State Department of Commerce allocated \$1 million in CARES Act funding to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In an effort to support housing stability, [stipends will be provided](#) to youth who exited the Extended Foster Care Program at age 21

between March 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.

- State Department of Commerce is distributing approximately \$100 million in “CARES” Act funding to operate a [rent assistance program](#). The program will focus on preventing evictions by paying up to three months of past due, current and future rent, for eligible participants. The end date is December 31, 2020.
- The [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children](#) (WIC) continues to offer remote services to participants. WIC may enroll new applicants, provide nutrition education and breastfeeding support and issue food benefits by phone or video chat.
- The WA State Department of Commerce is collaborating with organizations to provide support through the newly launched [Small Business Resiliency Assistance](#) program. Twenty partner organizations are available to help small businesses and nonprofits in a variety of ways, including planning for recovery and safe re-opening, retaining and supporting the work force, access to translation services, [and more](#).
- **The call center is staffed Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm (360.678.2301).**