



ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance

June 24, 2021

For schools (2020/21) please see [this updated information.](#)

For schools (2021/22) please see [this updated information.](#)

Island County Public Health wants to make sure that the citizens of Island County have access to reliable guidance surrounding COVID-19. We update guidance weekly to help inform our community. For archived copies of this community guidance, visit the COVID-19 section of our [webpage](#).

Numbers and Data

A case rate of 58.95 cases per 100,000 was calculated for the two-week period of June 11th, 2021 to June 24th, 2021. Island County has 1,866 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 29 deaths. *Note, Surveillance numbers will be updated every Thursday. Current numbers are posted on our COVID webpage.

Update from Department of Health (DOH)

Newest numbers: DOH reported a total of 412,581 confirmed cases as of 11:59 p.m. on June 22nd. There have been 5,889 COVID-19 deaths in Washington. For the most recent tally of cases by county, demographics, and more, visit the [Department of Health's Dashboard](#) and the state's [Road to Recovery Metrics dashboard](#). Race and ethnicity data are included on the DOH dashboards, as well as in specific reports.

VACCINE DOSES GIVEN
Total number of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered in Island County by a vaccine provider:
96,444
Last updated: 6/21/21 at 11:59pm. <i>Data provided via WA DOH</i>

Mobile Vaccination Team Events

Island County continues to provide mobile vaccination events.

Current locations are:

- ➔ June 26th Island County Historical Museum, Coupeville 11:00am to 3:00pm
- ➔ July 4th Independence Day Celebration at Windjammer Park, Oak Harbor 10:00am to 6:00pm
- ➔ July 15th to 18th Whidbey Island Fair, Langley 12:00pm to 5:00pm each day

These vaccination events are open to the public. All three vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, available! Ages 12+ welcome! No appointment, ID, or insurance necessary. Stop by and get your vaccine!

Our Mobile Vaccination Team can come to your organization or facility to give vaccines. Pop-up events can be established at most locations for a walk-up style clinic.

Schedule a Mobile Vaccination Clinic or Pop-Up Clinic today by contacting Liz Smith by email at e.smith@islandcountywa.gov or by phone at 360-320-5000. Watch our [webpage](#) for more dates to be added!

Washington State Department of Health Update

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is aware there are differences between vaccination data displayed in the state's data dashboard compared to vaccination data in the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) COVID Data Tracker](#). DOH understands that there is a lot of excitement and anticipation surrounding the 70% vaccination threshold statewide. While the state hasn't achieved it yet (at last check, we are at 68.0%), the people of Washington are getting closer every day. The state's data dashboard represents the most accurate information the department has control over, but it is likely vaccination rates are higher for the following reasons:

- The state goal and dashboard reports for people 16 and up, and the federal government is reporting for people 18 and up.
- DOH also uses population estimates from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), while the federal government uses census data.
- DOH is including 136,673 Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit recipients who have initiated vaccine to the current statewide total. However, the federal government gets data from DoD, VA, Bureau of Prisons, and potentially a few other sources that don't get automatically funneled to DOH state totals.

Read the article from which this information came from [here](#).

Read Gov. Inslee's statement about reopening numbers [here](#).

More COVID-19 vaccination needed to keep virus in check

The latest [COVID-19 modeling and surveillance situation report](#) from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) continues to show promising signs in decreased disease activity. The report also highlights the need for additional vaccination and continued preventive efforts (like wearing masks if unvaccinated) as the state moves toward reopening and beyond.

The evidence is clear: "vaccination protects you and the people around you, including kids under 12 who can't get vaccinated yet," said Acting State Health Officer Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH. "Immunity levels in your community and social circles determine how likely you are to be exposed to the virus, and we expect to continue seeing outbreaks in communities with lower vaccination rates. As we get closer to reopening, you can help keep your community safe by getting your vaccine and talking to the people you know about getting theirs."

Read the article from which this information came from [here](#).

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) Information

Many questions have been asked regarding the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Here are some clarifying points:

How reports come into VAERS

VAERS collects reports of possible adverse events that happen after vaccination.

Anyone can submit a [report to VAERS](#), including patients, family members, healthcare providers, and vaccine manufacturers, even if it isn't clear if the vaccine caused the health problem.

VAERS limitations

Because VAERS allows anyone to report possible side effects from vaccines, it includes reports that might or might not be caused by vaccines. VAERS is **not** designed to identify cause and effect. VAERS reports alone cannot be used to determine if a vaccine caused or contributed to an adverse event or illness. Some reports may contain information that is incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, or unverifiable. Most reports to VAERS are voluntary, which means they are subject to biases. Data from VAERS reports should always be interpreted with these limitations in mind.

Also, VAERS is used only for monitoring adverse events. It does not provide medical advice.

Learn more about how [VAERS](#) is used to monitor vaccine safety.

The CDC also has a helpful [fact sheet](#) with more information about VAERS and [a video on YouTube](#).

Read the article from the CDC from which this information came from [here](#).

Governor Jay Inslee Update

On June 21st, Gov. Jay Inslee announced that three proclamations related to the COVID-19 pandemic would be rescinded. These changes are made in anticipation of the June 30 reopening date, and while we remain in a state of emergency - it is expected that additional proclamations will be rescinded in the coming days and weeks.

Proclamation 20-30, which suspends statutory job search requirements for applicants seeking unemployment insurance. This rescission is effective July 4. Additional information for job seekers is available from the Employment Security Department [here](#).

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Proclamation 20-46, which provides protections for high-risk workers, has been substantially replaced by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5115 and was made immediately effective. This new law, which was signed and made effective immediately, is known as the Health Emergency Labor Standards Act (HELSEA), applies to workplaces only during a declared public health emergency involving an infectious or contagious disease. The law includes protections for high-risk employees from discrimination during public health emergencies. Information about these protections is available [here](#). This rescission is effective June 28.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Proclamation 20-76, which limited the fees that third-party delivery services could charge restaurants for delivering food to customers. This rescission is effective immediately.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Read the article from which this information came from [here](#).

On June 11th, Gov. Jay Inslee [announced](#) further business and employee guidance consolidations and rescissions for some industries. Unless otherwise specified, the industries will no longer need to follow industry-specific guidance. They will instead only need to follow general requirements, which include the COVID-19 workplace health and safety measures established by the [Department of Labor & Industries](#) (L&I).

Read the full official memo [here](#).

Read all business and employee guidance [here](#).

Read the article from which this information came from [here](#).

Vaccine Information

- Many providers have open appointments with walk-ins available.
- Johnson & Johnson is a one-shot vaccine.
- Pfizer and Moderna are a two-shot series, make sure your second dose is completed.
- You need to get your second dose of the 2-dose vaccines for them to be completely effective.
- Pfizer is currently approved for those 12 and older. If you are a young adult, search for Pfizer on the [vaccine locator](#).

Are you or someone you know experiencing vaccine hesitancy? The Washington State Department of Health is a great resource for addressing vaccine hesitancy. Visit the Washington State Department of Health's [resource page](#) about "Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy" for more details.

Island County Public Health

Island County is participating in the distribution of Everlywell COVID test kits. This is a free resource to the public. To be eligible, individuals must be Island County residents that are having a hard time locating COVID-19 testing (this includes timely access). The Everlywell test kits can only be picked up at our Camano and Coupeville offices. Please call the COVID-19 Call Center at 360-678-2301 to have the qualifying survey completed, or complete the survey here: [Cognito Forms](#). Once the survey is completed, there will be a follow-up call to ensure eligibility, and then a pick-up location for the test kit will be chosen.

Labor and Industries Update

L&I has updated their guidance for masking in the workplace. Learn more [here](#). The new guidance does not change masking rules for correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, childcare centers or day camps, or health care settings like hospitals, long-term care, and doctor's offices. The federal order requiring masks on public transportation remains in place.

Is it clear who must wear masks when entering your establishment? Many customers have difficulty discerning the protocols to follow without a sign on the door, letting them know. We have flyers [here](#) that you can print out to clear up the confusion. They are available in both English and Spanish.

WhidbeyHealth Update

Due to the widespread availability of vaccine providers on Whidbey Island and the sharp decrease in demand at WhidbeyHealth for coronavirus vaccination appointments, WhidbeyHealth will cease operating its public vaccine clinic on June 30th, 2021. For the media release, click [here](#).

For a full list of providers and testing locations, visit the [Island County Public Health COVID page](#).

The Island County Public Health COVID-19 webpage is an excellent resource with links for specific guidance updates. Click [here](#) to find the resources you need.

Thank You

Island County Public Health would like to thank our community partners, volunteers, providers, vaccination teams, and people assisting the community with information and obtaining appointments. Please remember that everyone is doing their best and continue to be patient through this process.

More Information

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 in Island County, start by visiting our [website](#), [Facebook](#) page, or email us at PubHealth@IslandCountyWa.gov. If you would like to speak to someone directly about COVID-19, the Island County Call Center can be reached at **360-678-2301**; Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

We also offer our COVID-19 Information Line: **360-678-5111** ext. **6000**. This is a pre-recorded message in English and Spanish for community members to call for general information about COVID-19.

The [WA DOH COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) remains the most up-to-date source of information regarding the safety, phasing and availability of COVID-19 vaccine in Washington, as well as the [Centers for Disease Control's Vaccine website](#).