



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance

August 5, 2021

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

Community Guidance will be sent out twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

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 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month 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 207.50 cases per 100,000 was calculated for the two-week period of July 23rd, 2021 to August 5th, 2021. Island County has 2,183 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 31 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 440,759 confirmed cases as of 11:59 p.m. on August 3rd. There have been 6,145 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 [Washington Ready and COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#). Race and ethnicity data are included on the DOH dashboards, as well as in specific reports.

Vaccinated Island County Residents	
Number Of Island County Residents That Have At Least One Dose Of Vaccine	Population (12+) Eligible To Be Vaccinated
46,074	73,601
Data As Of 08/02/2021 At 11:59 PM	

New Island County Vaccine Image

Our graph has changed to better reflect Island County residents initiating vaccines!

The graph shows the number of Island County residents who have received at least one dose of the vaccine along with the total 12+ population who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID. Previously, the graph was an indication of how many vaccine doses were given in Island County. However, this didn't reflect Island County residents specifically.

Our graph will continue to be updated each Thursday on our webpage and sent out via Community Guidance. The information is collected from Washington State Department of Health's COVID Dashboard:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

Mobile Vaccination Team Events

Island County continues to provide mobile vaccination events.

Current locations are:

- Tuesday August 10th Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island Campus in Oak Harbor, Oak Hall, Room 223, 2:00pm to 7:00pm
 - **Tuesday August 10th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm - Keith Higman, Island County's Public Health Director, will be at the Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island Campus Vaccination Event in Oak Harbor to answer questions regarding COVID and COVID vaccines**
- Saturday August 14th & Sunday August 15th Coupeville Arts & Crafts Festival 11:00am to 4:00pm
- Tuesday August 17th Camano Farmers Market at the Camano Commons 3:00pm to 6:00pm
 - **Tuesday August 17th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm - Keith Higman, Island County's Public Health Director, will be at the Camano Farmers Market Vaccination Event at the Camano Commons to answer questions regarding COVID and COVID vaccines**
- Tuesday September 7th Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island Campus in Oak Harbor, Oak Hall, Room 223, 2:00pm to 7:00pm

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!

Masking Update

Island County continues to follow the masking guidance outlined by the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries.

In short, the guidance is as follows:

If you are vaccinated, it is recommended that you wear a mask in public indoor settings to prevent the spread of the Delta variant. This is a recommendation, not a mask mandate.

If you are unvaccinated, you are required to continue wearing masks in public indoor settings.

There are certain settings where you are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, which includes, but is not limited to hospitals, long-term care, doctor's offices, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, childcare centers and day camps, and public transportation and transportation hubs.

Businesses can set their own more protective mask requirements, which is why the Washington State Department of Health's message around masking is "Respect the rules of the room you're in," since those rules may change depending on where you are.

Guidance for employers on the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries website:

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/coronavirus>

General masking guidance from the Washington State Department of Health:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/ClothFaceCoveringsandMasks>

K-12 School masking guidance from the Washington State Department of Health:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-105-K12Schools2021-2022.pdf>

Masking for Businesses: Is it clear who must wear masks when customers walk into your business? 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.

COVID-19 Variants

The Washington State Department of Health is tracking information about COVID-19 variants in our state.

The [SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing and Variants in Washington State \(PDF\)](#) contains the most current information about variants in our state. More information can be found on the [Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 Variants webpage](#).

The COVID Response has added a graph with Island County COVID-19 variant information to [Island County Public Health's COVID-19 webpage](#), which will be updated every Thursday.

COVID-19 Case Investigations & Contact Tracing

Have you or someone you know been exposed to COVID-19?

Case investigations and contact tracing help slow and prevent the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19.

You can call the Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus Hotline: 1-800-525-0127

or go to [the Washington State Department of Health Case Investigations & Contact Tracing website](#) to learn more.

You can also sign up for [WA Notify](#), a smartphone application that helps with Contact Tracing.

Reporting Suspected COVID-19 Business Violations

If you need to report a suspected COVID-19 business violation, go to this webpage [here](#).

All of the information you submit to this site is public information. If a public records request per RCW

42.56 <https://www.governor.wa.gov/home/privacy-notice> is received these records will be released as required.

This form is **ONLY for reporting suspected business violations** of Governor Jay Inslee's proclamations and the state Department of Health Orders.

CDC Update

On July 30th, [data was published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), demonstrating that Delta infection resulted in similarly high SARS-CoV-2 viral loads in vaccinated and unvaccinated people. High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with Delta can transmit the virus. This finding is concerning and was a pivotal discovery leading to CDC's updated mask recommendation. The masking recommendation was updated to ensure the vaccinated public would not unknowingly transmit virus to others, including their unvaccinated or immunocompromised loved ones. Read the article from which this information came from [here](#).

Governor Jay Inslee Update

On July 16th, Gov. Jay Inslee and Secretary of Health Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH announced the Power of Providers (POP) Initiative to continue to encourage all health care providers in the state to reach out and talk to their patients about COVID-19 vaccination. As the state continues its vaccination work and shifts to more community-based efforts, health providers from a variety of sectors are pivotal in increasing COVID-19 vaccinations in an equitable manner.

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

On July 20th, Gov. Jay Inslee terminated two proclamations and gave advance notice of the termination of one additional proclamation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more about the proclamations [here](#).

On July 21st, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a statement regarding the federal government's recent announcement of continued U.S.-Canada border closure.

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

On July 27th, Gov. Jay Inslee rescinded two COVID-19 emergency proclamations and gave advance notice of the rescission of a third emergency proclamation.

Learn more about the proclamations [here](#).

On July 30th, Gov. Jay Inslee issued an update to the K-12 Schools COVID emergency order, [Proclamation 20-09.4](#), to continue to require that all teachers and students wear face coverings inside, consistent with the CDC's recommendations for K-12 schools. The governor announced the updates at a [press conference](#) in Olympia.

Schools must comply with:

- [The Department of Health's requirements for K-12 schools.](#)
- [The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's COVID-19 guidance.](#)
- [The Department of Labor & Industries' requirements and guidance, including, but not limited to, those for preventing COVID-19.](#)

These updates are effective immediately.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

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

Washington State Department of Health Update

July 27th: The latest [COVID-19 modeling and surveillance situation report](#) from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) shows a new surge: cases are increasing in the state as the Delta variant becomes more widespread. As cases stemming from the Delta variant rise, anyone who has signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested, regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.

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

July 28th: New reporting from the Washington State Department of Health reveals the devastating impact of COVID-19 on people who are unvaccinated, and underscores once again the need for people to get vaccinated now if they haven't already.

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

July 29th: Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has added new data about testing and healthcare system readiness trends to the COVID-19 [data dashboard](#).

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

August 3rd: The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is concerned about a rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations being seen across the state due to the spread of the delta variant. Over the past four days, an average of 1,500 new cases have been reported each day. Hospital occupancy is at the highest levels seen to date in 2021 due to increased COVID-19 transmission, patient demand, and hospital staffing challenges. Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

Washington State Department of Corrections Update

July 22nd: The Washington State Department of Corrections' (DOC) [Safe Start Plan \(pdf\)](#) will go into effect August 15, 2021. DOC [Secretary Cheryl Strange](#) has announced contact visitation in prisons will resume on that date and the age restriction for visitors will be eliminated. Up to three approved visitors may visit an individual at one time, starting on August 15, 2021. Read the article from which this information came [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.
- 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 Kit is authorized for self-administration on test-takers ages 16 and older. 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.

We have created a COVID Vaccination Trifold brochure. It is available in English and Spanish on our website.

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 continue to thank our community. This has impacted us all over the past year and we have come together as a community. #IslandCountyProud moving forward, together!

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

COVID 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](#).

Community Guidance will be sent out via GovDelivery using a COVID-19 specific distribution list. To continue receiving Community Guidance, sign up by visiting Island County's webpage at <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>. Scroll to the bottom of the page to "Sign up for email updates" and enter your email address.