



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance

September 16, 2021

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

For additional guidance for schools, higher education, childcare, youth development and day camps, go to our [website](#). These and many other resources and guidance can be found on the left side of the COVID webpage.

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 281.41 cases per 100,000 was calculated for the two-week period of September 2nd, 2021 to September 15th, 2021. Island County has 3,086 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 37 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 547,449 confirmed cases as of 11:59 p.m. on September 14th. There have been 7,089 COVID-19 deaths in Washington. For the most recent tally of cases by county, demographics, and more, visit the [Department of Health's 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
49,485	73,601
Data As Of 09/13/2021 At 11:59 PM	

Governor Jay Inslee Update

September 2: Gov. Jay Inslee announced updates to one proclamation in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 – Truck Driver Hours ([20-22.10](#)): This update extends the COVID-related commercial truck driver hour waiver to November 30, 2021, in alignment with federal waivers.

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

September 3: Gov. Jay Inslee amended the Washington Ready emergency order ([Proclamation 20-25](#)) and also issued a new order to combat the spread of the delta variant in nursing homes ([Proclamation 21-15](#)).

The Washington Ready order was amended to prohibit local government agencies, officials, and authorities and landlords from preventing or prohibiting any person or business or other entity in their jurisdictions and tenants in their properties, respectively, from imposing face covering requirements on or requiring proof of vaccination from any worker, customer, or other person. It also prohibits these same agencies and individuals from taking or threatening to take any adverse action of any kind against any person or business or other entity or tenant for imposing face covering requirements on or requiring proof of vaccination from any worker, customer, or other person. The amendments are effective immediately.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

In response to the increased spread of the delta variant in nursing homes, and the need to take safety measures to protect non-COVID positive residents from COVID-positive residents, Proclamation 21-15 suspends and waives certain statutes in order to allow nursing homes to transfer or discharge residents to other long-term care facilities. This order is effective immediately and expires at 11:59 pm on October 2, 2021, unless extended.

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

September 13: Gov. Jay Inslee amended the Washington Ready emergency order ([Proclamation 20-25](#)) to require facial coverings for large outdoor events with 500 or more individuals, regardless of vaccination status. The update was initially announced at a press conference [last week](#), and is effective immediately.

The update also aligns the proclamation with the Washington State Secretary of Health Facial Coverings [Order 20-03.5](#). Read the full proclamation [here](#). Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

Washington State Department of Health Update

September 2: This year, back-to-school occurs in the midst of a COVID-19 surge in all regions of the state. So, the strategy for a healthy return includes layered protections: encouraging vaccines for all eligible students, requiring staff to be vaccinated, near-universal masking, and regular COVID-19 testing at school.

Districts can choose from a menu of testing options at school via the [Learn to Return](#) (LTR) testing program. “It’s part of a layered approach in our schools that will allow us to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Combining testing with broad vaccination, and then adding the four W’s of washing hands, wearing masks, watching distance, and using WA Notify is the best possible approach as we restart full-time, in-person learning.” said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health. Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

September 8: Hospital capacity is currently stressed across the state of Washington. The surge in hospitalizations is one that Washington Department of Health (DOH), with its healthcare partners, has been monitoring closely. At this time, partners across Washington have undertaken a number of strategies to stretch resources and mitigate current challenges.

DOH is working with state, federal, and private partners to mitigate Washington’s health care surge by accessing additional volunteer and contracted resources, coordinating information sharing, and supporting efforts to shift patients to healthcare facilities that can best support their care. DOH encourages Washingtonians to help by doing

their part such as getting vaccinated, wearing masks in crowded or indoor public places, and taking other preventive steps. Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

September 13: As we see students and educators head back into the classroom and restart the in-person learning routine, the Department of Health (DOH) is providing behavioral health tips and resources for navigating the emotional responses that children, teens, and adults may experience during this exciting and stressful time. The [COVID-19 Back-to-Classroom THINK Toolbox](#) is a resource to help with adjusting to the return of in-person school and learning. "Children and teens are uniquely affected by the pandemic," says Dr. Kira Mauseth, co-lead for the behavioral health strike team at the Department of Health. "Children and youth process information differently than adults. They need different structures in place to support them through disasters and large transitions, such as promoting recovery in the classroom, and return to back-to-classroom education. The THINK Toolbox was developed to address these areas and some of the trauma and stress that we've all experienced as a result of the pandemic." Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

To Be Fully Vaccinated by October 18th					
Vaccine	Series Dose Requirement	First Dose No Later Than	Second Dose	Completed Series	Fully Vaccinated
Pfizer	2 doses, 21 days apart	09/13 2021	10/04 2021	10/04 2021	10/18 2021
Moderna	2 doses, 28 days apart	09/06 2021	10/04 2021	10/04 2021	10/18 2021
Johnson & Johnson	Single Dose	10/04 2021	N/A	10/04 2021	10/18 2021

Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs

September 7: WDVA onsite contractors and vendors are required to be fully vaccinated by October 18th. Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

September 3: Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler has extended two emergency orders. His order [requiring health insurers to waive copays and deductibles](#) for any consumer requiring testing for the coronavirus (COVID-19) and his order [protecting consumers from receiving surprise bills for lab fees](#) related to medically necessary diagnostic testing for COVID-19 are both extended until Oct. 3, 2021. Read the article from which this information came [here](#).

Washington State Department of Health Interim SARS-CoV-2 Self-Testing Guidance

If you are using a self-test, make sure to read the full manufacturer's instructions before using the test. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about the test or your results. Some schools and workplaces might accept

over-the-counter tests for return to work or school. You should discuss your results with your employer, school, etc. to determine if you are ready to return.

Got a COVID-19 home test kit and tested positive? You can report your results to the Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus hotline: 1-800-525-0127

The COVID-19 hotline personnel can help answer any questions that you might have.

[Read the full guidance about self-testing here.](#) It includes information about what your results mean.

[CDC has a helpful flyer](#) about how to inform your close contacts when you have tested positive for COVID-19:

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.](#)

Homebound Vaccine Visits

The Homebound program from Island County Public Health COVID Response is available to provide on-site COVID vaccinations to those who are unable to leave their home or small group setting (e.g., residential facilities). Services are provided at no cost. To schedule an appointment or for any questions, please contact Sharon Branch at [\(360\) 678-2301](tel:3606782301) or s.branch@islandcountywa.gov.

Mobile Vaccination Team Events

Island County continues to provide mobile vaccination events.

Current locations are:

- **Friday September 17th** Blue Fox Drive-in Theater, 1403 Monroe Landing Road, Oak Harbor, 3:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Friday October 1st** Island County Administration Bldg., 1 - 7th Street NE, Rooms 101 & 116, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Monday October 4th** Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island Campus in Oak Harbor, Oak Hall, Main Lobby, 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Translation services will be provided at each mobile vaccination site.

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!

Island County Public Health is now authorized to administer a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines only **for certain immunocompromised groups**. The Island County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics will be providing these third doses for immunocompromised patients pursuant to the FDA/CDC guidelines. For more information go to the [Island County COVID webpage](#).

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.

Vaccine Information

Many providers have open appointments with walk-ins available. 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 provided by Island County Public Health are only for test takers 18 years and older. They are prioritized for symptomatic individuals. The Everlywell test kits can only be picked up at our Camano and Coupeville offices. A survey is required to be completed either online at <https://www.cognitofoms.com/IslandCountyPublicHealth/AtHomeCovid19Testing> or by calling the COVID-19 call center at 360-678-2301. 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.

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. We have many flyers on our website available for printing in both English and Spanish. 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.

To watch our newest Community Connection video of Lisa [click here](#).

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](#).

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!