



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance June 17, 2020

Island County Public Health wants to make sure that the citizens of Island County have access to reliable guidance surrounding COVID-19. We will be updating our guidance to the community weekly and hope that you use this to help inform and empower yourself and our community.

Preparing for Phase 3

Island County is **currently in Phase 2 of the [Safe Start](#)** plan to reopen Washington. Please continue to follow all appropriate guidelines and safety measures.

- Continue to follow all Phase 2 guidance, including limiting non-essential travel to areas close to your home and limiting gatherings to no more than five people, outside of your household members, per week.
- On June 16, 2020, the Island County Board of Health (BOH) voted to immediately lift camping restrictions previously set in place as a condition of approval for entering Phase 2. Camping in [Rhododendron Park](#) will remain closed until further notice. Please contact your local [Washington state park](#) for additional information regarding reopening plans and availability.
- In order to progress to Phase 3, the Island County Health Officer, BOH, and Board of County Commissioners must support advancing to Phase 3. Following the recommendation of the Health Officer, all parties voted unanimously to submit a Phase 3 variance application on June 16.
- Island County submitted an application to move into Phase 3 on June 16. While the timeline for application review is currently unknown, Phase 3 review is expected to require more time than was previously necessary during Phase 2 review.

Statewide Facial Covering Requirement

In addition to the Phase 2 infection prevention measures already in place, the Safe Start plan includes a cloth face covering requirement. The facial covering requirement in Washington State went into effect **on June 8**. This is a key piece of the Safe Start plan and a required component of safe reopening.

- All employees in the state are required to wear a cloth face covering, except when the job has no in-person interaction or when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site.

- Employers must provide cloth face coverings to employees, and/or employees may choose to wear their own face coverings at work, provided it meets the minimum requirements. Businesses are encouraged to post a sign asking customers to wear face coverings.
- [Which Mask for Which Task](#) guidance was issued by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health at the state's Department of Labor and Industries. Complete guidance for workers and businesses is available [on Governor Inslee's webpage](#).
- Many of us are still adjusting to wearing a mask. Keeping an extra face covering in your pocket, car, bag, or at the office may prove to be helpful in the event that you forget to bring one next time you leave home.

Stay Informed of COVID-19 Spread

It is important to note that as we prepare to move to Phase 3 in Island County, many parts of our state (and the nation) are seeing an increase in cases and spread. Do your part to prevent spread in our community and throughout the region.

- COVID-19 is spreading faster in eastern Washington, with a potential increase in spread in western Washington, as well. If you need to travel, research your destination prior to departure to assess COVID-19 exposure risk and plan for appropriate precautions.
- Data suggests that possible increases may be related to Memorial Day celebrations. The time frame of these data would not include possible exposures from protests.
- Do your part to limit the spread of COVID-19 by limiting group gatherings, staying six-feet away from others, staying home if you are sick, washing your hands often, and wearing a face covering when you are out in public.

Contact Us

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 in Island County, start by visiting our [website](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.

Public can contact the Island County call center at **360.678.2301**.

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm