



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance June 2, 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.

*****Please note, our call center will no longer be operating on the weekend. The number and weekday hours can be found at the end of this guidance document.**

Safe Start Washington – Phased Reopening County-by-County

On May 29, Governor Inslee announced the Safe Start Washington - Phased Reopening County-by-County plan. This is a modified version of the phased reopening plan announced in early May.

- The [Safe Start](#) plan includes new metrics that each county has to meet in order to move to the next phase and provides more flexibility to move between phases.
- Island County remains in Phase 2, excluding camping, and must remain in our current phase for a minimum of three weeks. Island County will be eligible to apply to move to Phase 3 on June 13.
- Individual businesses need to implement the state guidelines for a safe start. All previous guidance documents for businesses and organizations for Phase 2 remain in effect. Guidance is available [here](#).
- While various outdoor recreation activities have reopened in Phase 2, camping remains prohibited within Island County, at this time. Opening camping will be revisited during the Phase 3 application process.

New Masking Requirement

The Safe Start plan includes a new face covering requirement. This requirement is in addition to the Phase 2 key infection prevention measures that are already in place.

- On June 8, all businesses will be required to have employees wear face coverings, unless they work alone. Businesses are also required to post signage encouraging customers/clients to wear face coverings in public spaces.
- Please continue to practice key infection prevention measures including social distancing, wearing a face covering when in public spaces, and practicing frequent hand washing.

- Please continue to limit non-essential travel to areas close to your home and limit gatherings to no more than five people, outside of your household members, per week.

Practice Patience and Compassion

Practice patience and compassion with yourself and others as we move through these uncertain times. In addition to practicing safe social distancing and hygiene measures, respectful communication, and consideration are essential parts of supporting our fellow community members and local businesses.

- Be mindful of your social media consumption. Share what you want to read and work to spread reliable information. Limiting the amount of time spent on social media, following things that bring joy, and spreading facts not fear could minimize additional feelings of worry, anxiety, and exhaustion. You may also want to consider taking a break from social media altogether.
- Remember that we all have different levels of concern for our health and the health of our loved-ones. Part of being compassionate means following social distancing and face covering guidance in public as a gesture of kindness to others. Remember, you are protecting others when you wear a face covering. Also remember, though, that there may be legitimate reasons why someone is not able to wear a face covering. Children under the age of two should not wear face coverings, and there may be reasons that some older children should not wear them as well.
- Finding intentional ways to be kind to others can improve your mood and help manage stress. Go out of your way to be kind to someone else.

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