



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance July 7, 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.

Mandatory Face Covering Order

A statewide mandatory [facial covering order](#) is currently in effect. This requirement applies to both indoor and outdoor activities taking place in public spaces, with certain exceptions.

- On July 2, Governor Inslee and Secretary of Health John Wiesman announced a [statewide requirement](#) for businesses to require all employees and customers to comply with the statewide face covering order. Potential violations may be reported through the Governor's [online portal](#).
- Cloth face coverings act as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people, thereby [reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread](#).
- The facial covering order allows for specific exemptions, including but not limited to:
 - Individuals with certain medical conditions and children under the age of two, who should not wear a face covering,
 - Individuals eating or drinking at a restaurant,
 - Individuals communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing; and
 - Individuals outdoors in public areas provided that a distance of six feet be maintained from people who are not members of their household.

Phase Three Key Messages

Island County is currently in Phase 3 of the Governor's [Safe Start](#) Reopening plan. Informative resources are available to help us navigate how we go about our daily lives and what we might expect for the future.

- All non-essential travel should be avoided to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. If you need to travel, research your destination ahead of time using the [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) and [Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) to assess COVID-19 exposure risk.

- Due to increasing COVID-19 activity across the state, Governor Jay Inslee and Secretary of Health John Weisman have [placed a pause](#) on counties moving through phases of the Safe Start plan.
- Continue to do your part by limiting group gatherings, staying six-feet away from others, staying home if you are sick, washing your hands often, and wearing a cloth face covering when you are out in public.

Embrace Available Resources

As we do our best to navigate through this challenging time, it is particularly important to give and receive support in the ways that we are able to. Some available resources are listed below.

- Washington has launched the [Washington Listens](#) support program to help people manage elevated levels of stress due to the pandemic. The support line is available at 1.833.681.0211 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. TeleTYpe (TTY) and language access services are available by using 7-1-1 or their preferred method.
- Island County has been awarded funds under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In order to qualify for these funds, individuals and families must be impacted by COVID-19. Please complete the [online referral form](#) or call the Human Services Help Line at 360.678.2346 to learn more about available resources.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) has resumed accepting applications in response to the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act. The new deadline to apply for a PPP loan is Aug. 8. This is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep workers on the payroll.
- In response to the impact of COVID-19, drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots provide free, temporary emergency internet access for Washingtonians who don’t have broadband service at their homes. A Wi-Fi mapping tool is available on the Washington State Department of Commerce [website](#).
- Be a supportive resource to your fellow community members. Practice patience and compassion by finding intentional ways to be kind to others, spreading reliable information, and following physical distancing and masking guidance.

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