



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance July 15, 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.

Increasing COVID-19 Spread

COVID-19 spread is increasing throughout Washington State. As individuals and members of a larger community, we all need to do our part to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

- According to the most recent WA Department of Health (DOH) [statewide situation report](#), increasing COVID-19 spread is taking place throughout Washington State. The seven-day average of new cases now exceeds the peak set in early March. Cases are increasing fastest among individuals under 40 years of age across the state.
- Avoid all non-essential travel 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 risk. At this time, all surrounding counties remain in Phase 2 of the Safe Start Reopening plan. Travel associated with these counties may result in increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- 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. This pause is currently in effect until at least July 28.
- 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.

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 individuals with certain medical conditions, children under the age of two, 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 practicing appropriate physical distancing measures.

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 Listens](#) offers support 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.
- Congress has [extended waivers](#) allowing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) to offer services remotely until Sept. 30. In lieu of in-person visits, the waivers let WIC enroll new applicants, provide nutrition education and breastfeeding support and issue food benefits by phone or video chat.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) has resumed accepting applications. 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.
- 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