



## ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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### Administration

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## ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance July 22, 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.

### **Adjusted Phase 3 Limits**

[New Safe Start limits](#) on social distancing and live entertainment went into effect on Monday, July 20. Island County remains in Phase 3 of the reopening plan.

- The number of individuals allowed in social gatherings during Phase 3 has been reduced from 50 people to 10 people per week. These restrictions apply only to social gatherings, not businesses operating legally under the Safe Start guidance. Funerals, weddings and religious activities are exempt from these new restrictions.
- Both indoor and outdoor live entertainment has been banned statewide.
- 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.

### **Accelerating 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 July 17 WA Dept. of Health (DOH) [Situation Report](#), COVID-19 transmission continues to increase or accelerate across most of Washington State and will continue to do so unless concrete steps are taken to stop the spread.
- In both eastern and western Washington, cases are increasing fastest among 20-29 year olds and are growing in both younger and older age groups around them.
- Avoid all non-essential travel. 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. Before necessary traveling, research destinations to assess exposure risk using the [Phase and Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) and [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

## **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 updated [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"). Individuals and families impacted by COVID-19 should complete the [online referral form](#) or call the Human Services Help Line at 360.678.2346 to learn more.
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) will [offer services remotely](#) until Sept. 30. In lieu of in-person visits, WIC may 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.
- Visit the Washington State Department of Commerce [website](#) to locate drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots that provide free, temporary emergency internet access for Washingtonians.
- Be a supportive resource to your fellow community members. Practice patience and compassion by finding intentional ways to be kind to others and spreading reliable information

## **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**