



ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance August 04, 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

Island County is currently in Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start Reopening plan. Adjusted restrictions will continue to go into effect over the next two weeks.

- The number of individuals allowed in social gatherings during Phase 3 has been reduced to 10 people per week. Live entertainment is currently banned in indoor and outdoor settings
- A variety of Safe Start guidance [adjustments](#) have recently been released. Follow the links below for most up-to-date changes:
 - [Restaurant, Tavern, Brewery, Winery and Distillery](#) (updated July 24)
 - [Indoor Fitness and Training](#) (updated August 3)
 - [Overnight Group Summer Camp and Similar Activities](#) (released July 31)
- Effective August 10, [wedding and funeral](#) receptions will be prohibited, with ceremonies limited to maximum occupancy of 20% (both indoor and outdoor), or up to 30 people, whichever is less, as long as social distancing can be observed.

Face Covering Order Expanded

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.

- An [extension of the order](#) requires face coverings in all common spaces, such as elevators, hallways and shared spaces in apartment buildings, university housing and hotels, as well as congregate setting such as nursing homes.
- [Businesses must](#) require all employees and customers to comply with the statewide face covering order. Potential violations may be reported through the Governor's new [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](#).

Connect with DOH

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recently launched the Community Recovery-Oriented Needs Assessment, or the CORONA survey. The survey is an effort to assess the behavioral, economic, social, and emotional impacts and the needs of communities across the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

- The CORONA survey results will inform immediate, long-term, and ongoing actions that DOH and local health jurisdictions can take to address the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on Washingtonians.
- Visit www.wacoronasurvey.com to take part in the survey. To take the survey by phone, call 855-530-5787—interpreters are available to assist. The survey is voluntary and confidential.

Increased COVID-19 Spread

COVID-19 spread is increasing throughout Washington State. Do your part to prevent further transmission.

- According to the July 28 WA Dept. of Health (DOH) [Situation Report](#), COVID-19 transmission continues to increase overall across the state. The burden remains at or near local peak levels in most counties. Both eastern and western WA have reached new peaks in cases since the [previous report](#).
- 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](#).
- Continue to limit group gatherings, stay six-feet away from others, stay home if you are sick, wash your hands often, and wear a face covering in public spaces.

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 State Department of Commerce is distributing approximately \$100 million in “CARES” Act funding to operate a [new rent assistance program](#) launched Aug. 1. The program will focus on preventing evictions by paying up to three months of past due, current and future rent to landlords for eligible participants. Rent assistance is limited to three months and the program ends Dec. 31, 2020.
- 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.

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**