



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance August 10, 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.

Phase 3 Guidance

Island County is currently in Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start Reopening plan. Continue to support our community by following current guidance.

- A number of adjusted Safe Start Phase restrictions have recently gone into effect. Governor Inslee released a [memorandum](#) on the [Reopening Guidance webpage](#) clarifying this series of changes.
- Governor Inslee has released [education recommendations](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. Counties are organized into high, moderate, and low risk recommendation groups, which are determined by the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a two-week period. Island County is currently in the moderate range, with 27.1 new cases per 100,000 residents over two-week period.
- A [phased plan](#) for long-term care facilities (LTCF) goes into effect August 12, intended to safely allow visitors, group activities, and provide trips for residents outside the facility.

COVID-19 Spread

The most recent Institute for Disease Modeling (IDM) [statewide report](#) shows mixed trends in recent COVID-19 activity throughout different age groups and regions of Washington State.

- Cases are again increasing in people age 40 to 69 and over 70, both in eastern and western Washington. The risk of hospitalization and death is significantly higher for these age groups.
- Transmission is likely still increasing in western Washington as of mid-July. Overall rises in the Puget Sound area, particularly Pierce County, point to increasing transmission there.
- Transmission is slowing overall in eastern Washington. In eastern Washington, encouraging declines in Yakima, Benton and Franklin counties are offset by rises in Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties.
- Avoid all non-essential travel. Travel outside of Island County 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](#).

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.

- 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](#). Cloth face covering should be worn in addition to following social distancing and appropriate hygiene practices.

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.

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](#). 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.
- 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.
- 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. The Island County call center may be reached at **360.678.2301**; Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.