



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

PO Box 5000

Coupeville, WA 98239

P: 360.679.7350 F: 360.679.7390

ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance October 14, 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 bi-weekly and hope that you use this to help inform and empower yourself and our community.

Numbers and Data

At the time of this writing, Island County has 349 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 12 deaths. A case rate of 25.94 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 was calculated for the two-week period of 9/27/20-10/10/20.

- A [new data edition](#) of the updated community guidance will be released in between bi-weekly comprehensive community updates, as appropriate. These documents are available in the [community guidance archive](#) on the Island County Public Health webpage.
- The [September Epidemiology Brief](#) for Island County was released earlier this month, showing a majority of COVID-19 cases in Island County as assigned male at birth, with most cases experiencing symptoms. For the month of September 2020, COVID-19 demographic trends remained similar to those from July & August, with higher incidence: among 20-39 year olds, in Oak Harbor, and among Hispanic/Latinos in greater proportion than the total population percentage.
- DOH released a new [Statewide Outbreak Report](#), identifying food service/restaurant, retail/grocery, and agriculture/produce packing among the top three outbreak settings reported.
- While conducting daily activities, please be sure to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing, wear a cloth face covering, and practice proper handwashing and hygiene. Non-essential travel outside of the county and state remains highly discouraged. Please recreate and shop as local as possible. Follow additional precautionary measures if you are [caring for someone who is at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19](#) and/or [caring for someone with COVID-19](#).

Updated Guidance

Governor Inslee recently released several updates to guidance housed under the [Safe Start](#) reopening plan, effective immediately. A complete list of updated guidance is available on the Governor's reopening webpage. Some recent changes are listed below for your convenience.

- Visit the new [WA State Safe Gatherings](#) webpage for helpful COVID-19 resources including planning tips, communication strategies, a safety checklist, and frequently asked questions!

- Further clarification regarding sporting activities is now available on the Governor’s recently released [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.
- Under [miscellaneous venues guidance](#), retail events (including consumer trade shows/exhibits) are only permitted in outdoor settings in Phase 3. Outdoor capacity is limited to 200 people, provided all relevant guidance requirements are met.
- Libraries are permitted to provide limited in-person services to customers at 50% of maximum building occupancy or lower. See the complete [guidance here](#).
- Youth and Adult Sports [guidance](#) will allow more school and non-school sports, both indoor and outdoor, according to a combination of local metrics. At this time, additional Island County restrictions remain in place regarding number of participants and interaction with external counties.
- Additional guidance is also available for [movie theaters](#), [restaurants](#), [wedding receptions](#), [real estate requirements](#), [various sports competitions](#), and [water recreation facilities](#).

Embrace available resources

- The Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) intends to prevent evictions that would contribute to the spread of the virus by paying past due, current due and future rent. The ERAP is targeting limited resources to those with the greatest needs while working to distribute funds equitably. To request assistance, please complete the [online application](#) or call one of the following phone numbers before December 31, 2020:
 - For Whidbey Residents – Call Housing Support Center at (360) 678-8284
 - For Camano Residents – Call Community Resource Center Stanwood-Camano at (360) 629-5257 ext. 1009.
 - If you are struggling with Homelessness, call the Housing Support Center: 360-678-8284
- Recent closures and mandates for social distancing can have an impact on you and your family. If you are feeling anxious, scared, or are in need of resources related to mental health, please call the Island County Helpline at 360.678.2346 (M-F 10am – 6pm) or complete the online [referral form](#).
- As the economic impacts of COVID-19 continue, more families are taking advantage of free meals provided by school districts. While all students may be provided free meals through the end of December, families are strongly encouraged to complete a School Meal Application now. This application determines a student’s eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Read more [here](#).
- The WA State Department of Commerce allocated \$1 million in CARES Act funding to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In an effort to support housing stability, [stipends will be provided](#) to youth who exited the Extended Foster Care Program at age 21 between March 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.
- The WA State Department of Commerce is collaborating with organizations to provide support through the newly launched [Small Business Resiliency Assistance](#) program. Twenty partner organizations are available to help small businesses and nonprofits in a variety of ways, including planning for recovery and safe re-opening, retaining and supporting the work force, access to translation services, [and more](#).

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.