



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration

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ISLAND COUNTY COVID-19 Updated Community Guidance April 7, 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 will use this to help inform and empower yourself and our community.

'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' Order

Governor Jay Inslee has recently extended the ['Stay Home, Stay Healthy'](#) order until May 4 and announced the extension of school closures for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. In alignment with these announcements, Island County Public Health provides the following updated guidance:

- All Island County residents are required to stay home unless engaging in an essential activity. All businesses have closed, except to conduct [essential business](#).
- Please remember that staying home and practicing social distancing is the most important thing we as a community can do to be helpful. There is a lot of loss associated with following the Governor's order but everyone, in all parts of Island County, needs to take social distancing seriously – our healthcare system depends on it.
- **Do not call 911 to report a business or individual potentially in violation of the order.** Report potential business violations through the [Violations of the Governor's Proclamation](#) webpage. Please do your part by engaging with your social network to stress the importance of individuals and families practicing social distancing and staying home. Education will be the primary role of law enforcement, followed by formal enforcement actions, as appropriate.
- Submit any inquiries or requests regarding [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#) to the [Essential Business Inquiries](#) webpage.

Cloth Face Coverings

The [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) now recommend that people wear cloth face coverings when they are in public settings where they cannot maintain 6-feet of distance from others. By wearing a mask, you add an extra layer of protection and may help to reduce further spread by containing your own respiratory droplets.

1. **The use of masks does not replace safe social distancing or proper hygiene practices.** Continue to maintain at least a 6-foot distance from others, wash hands frequently, and stay home unless for essential activities.

2. [Use cloth masks](#). Save medical-grade masks such as N95 respirators and surgical masks for healthcare professionals.

Economic Impacts

Although needed, the 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order has significant financial impacts on individuals and the community at large. Prepare and plan for economic impacts by staying informed and taking action as new resources become available. Island County Public Health and the Department of Emergency Management hope to have a webpage devoted to financial resources by the end of this week. Some key pieces are listed below:

- The Employment Security Department released a brief [video on YouTube](#) to explain some of the changes that will benefit Washingtonians following the recently passed federal stimulus bill. For information on this and other individual assistance in Washington State, please visit the [Washington State Economic Security Division webpage](#). You can sign up for COVID-19 alerts, apply for benefits, and take action as things change.
- The [Department of Financial Institutions](#) has developed a list of resources that might help address the financial impacts of COVID-19, including mortgage assistance, financial resources, and financial scams
- The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) may be able to provide assistance through the [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) program to businesses that have suffered substantial economic injury in an eligible disaster area. Congress approved up to \$7 billion in low-interest disaster loans specifically to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These loans can help small businesses meet financial obligations and cover operating expenses.

Contact Us

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 in Island County, start by visiting our [website](#) or our **Facebook** page. Stay tuned for a [Facebook live event](#) this Friday, March 10 at 3:00pm with Keith Higman to discuss the public health response and address common community questions. Questions may be submitted prior to the event via email to t.sanders@islandcountywa.gov, h.liss@islandcountywa.gov, or pubhealth@islandcountywa.gov.

Public can contact the Island County call center at **360.678.2301**.

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.