



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Administration
PO Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
P: 360.679.7350 F: 360.679.7390

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Island County, March 23, 2020:

Island County Public Health is investigating a potential cluster of COVID-19 cases associated with a long-term care facility on Whidbey Island. Two cases have been confirmed and test results are pending for other residents and employees. These cases are the first confirmed cases associated with a long-term care facility in Island County.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases are now spread widely throughout Island County. All residents must take urgent action to help minimize the health impacts of COVID-19. Mandates and public health recommendations apply to our entire community, in all locations, on both Camano and Whidbey Islands.

Everyone should assume that anyone they come into contact with could have COVID-19. Limit movement outside the home to essential activities only. All citizens should take appropriate cautions to limit public contact. Everyone's cooperation on social distancing is needed in order to preserve critical healthcare resources. If too many people are sick all at once, there will not be enough medical resources to go around. The healthcare system is planning for surge capacity, but that plan is dependent on us staying home now.

Anyone who has been exposed to a confirmed case should quarantine themselves at home for 14 days. People experiencing symptoms need to stay at home for at least 3 days after their symptoms resolve or at a minimum 7 days, whichever is longer.

For additional support and information:

WA State Department of Health – www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus.

Call Center # 1.800.525.0127, Sunday through Saturday (6:00am – 10:00pm)

Island County Public Health – www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

Call Center # 360.678.2301, Mondays through Fridays (8:00am – 4:30pm), Saturdays and Sundays (9:00am – 4:00pm)