



## ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Island County, November 15, 2020:

Due to the exponential growth in new cases of COVID-19 over the past two weeks throughout Washington State, Governor Jay Inslee has issued an executive order containing new mitigation measures that go into **effective Monday, November 16 at midnight through December 14, 2020**. Details of the order can be found on the Governor's [Medium page](#).

The new mitigation measures apply to the entire state. If an activity/business is not listed, it should follow its current guidance. All K-12/higher education and childcare operations are exempt from the new restrictions and will follow current guidance. These restrictions do not apply to courts and court related proceedings. The new mitigation measures are as follows:

- **Indoor social gatherings** with people from outside your household are prohibited.
- **Outdoor social gatherings** are limited to 5 people from outside your household.
- **Restaurants and bars** are closed for indoor service. Outdoor dining and to-go service is permitted. Outdoor dining must follow the outdoor dining restriction. Table size limited to 5 for outdoor dining. **These restaurant restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, November 18.**
- **Fitness facilities and gyms** are closed for indoor operations. Outdoor fitness classes may still occur but they are limited by the outdoor gathering restriction listed above. Drop off childcare in fitness facilities and gyms are closed.
- **Bowling Centers** are closed for indoor service.
- **Miscellaneous Venues:** All retail activities and business meetings are prohibited. Only professional training and testing that cannot be performed remotely is allowed. Occupancy in each meeting room is limited to 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer.
- **Movie Theaters** are closed for indoor service. Drive-in movie theaters are still permitted and must follow the current drive-in movie theater guidance.
- **Museums/Zoos/Aquariums** are closed for indoor service.
- **Real Estate** open houses are prohibited.
- **Wedding and Funerals** receptions are prohibited. Ceremonies are limited to no more than 30 people.

- **In-store retail** limited to 25% indoor occupancy and must close any common/congregate non-food related seating areas. Food court indoor seating is closed.
- **Religious services** limited to 25% indoor occupancy no more than 200 people, whichever is fewer. No choir, band, or ensemble shall perform during the service. Soloists are permitted to perform. Facial coverings must be worn at all times by congregation members and no congregational singing.
- **Professional Services** are required to mandate that employees work from home when possible, and to close offices to the public. If they remain open, occupancy is restricted to 25%.
- **Personal services** are limited to 25% of maximum occupancy.
- **Long-term Care Facilities** outdoor visits only. Exceptions can be made for essential support person and end-of-life care.
- **Youth (school and non-school) and adult sporting activities** limited to outdoor only for intra-team practices, masks required for athletes.

These measures were chosen based on the most current science about how COVID-19 is transmitted. The aim of these measures is to limit close, indoor contact among individuals where the risk of transmission is highest. The Governor recognizes that these measures will cause financial hardship for many businesses and is exploring ways to mitigate these impacts.

We need all residents of Island County to do their part in following these measures in order to limited transmission in our county and reduce the burden on our healthcare system.

For additional information:

**Island County Public Health** – [www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx](http://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)

**WA State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)** – <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>