

COVID-19

Thursday, May 14, 2020

SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO PROVIDE COVID-19 UPDATE

Tomorrow morning, Snohomish County will provide an update on the county's response to COVID-19, including resourcing and personal protective equipment (PPE). The link to view the video when it is posted is at right.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COVID-19 BUSINESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT – DUE BY MAY 16

Complete the Snohomish County COVID-19 Business Needs Assessment by May 16 to ensure business needs are heard! Link at right.

VERDANT HEALTH COMMISSION INVESTS \$470K IN NUTRITION, MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Verdant Health Commission has invested \$470,000 in local organizations to increase access to services that support the health of individuals and families in need. See the details at right.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

Snohomish County to Provide COVID-19 Update

Tomorrow morning, Snohomish County's Joint Information Center (JIC) will provide a media availability with county leaders to address the county's response to COVID-19, including resourcing and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The video will be posted at noon the same day and available for viewing at <https://www.snohd.org/495/COVID-19-General-Information>.

Snohomish County COVID-19 Business Needs Assessment – Due by May 16

Snohomish County created an Advisory Group to identify and develop strategies to reopen our economy. The Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) is asking the community to complete the 5-minute [Business Needs Assessment](#) to ensure business needs are heard.

The Assessment asks businesses how they have been impacted by the economic shutdown, their plans for reopening, and the support they need to reopen successfully. The survey is 6 steps and will take 3-5 minutes to complete. Surveys are due by May 16, 2020.

The primary focus of [Snohomish County's Office of Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#) is to stabilize our local economy, plan for economic recovery, build resiliency for our local employers, and support our local workforce. This will be a multi-disciplinary effort focused on economic development, workforce training and support, and human services. The office will assist local businesses in recovery and workforce training and help organizations get our residents back to work while partnering with human service providers to support those most in need.

Verdant Health Commission Invests \$470K in Nutrition, Mental Health Needs

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Verdant Health Commission continues to partner with local organizations to increase access to services that support the health of our individuals and families in need, and to date, it has invested approximately \$470,000 in new programming.

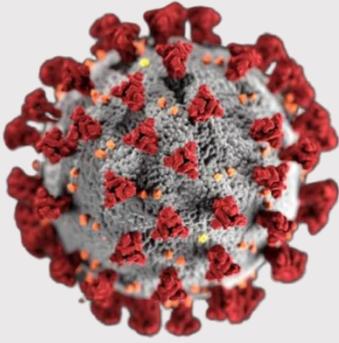
This work will keep evolving and may expand as new needs are identified. The partnerships already in place include:

Access to Nutritious Food and/or Hygiene Services

- Edmonds Community College Foundation
- Homage Senior Services
- Jean Kim Foundation
- Washington Kids in Transition
- ChildStrive
- Concern for Neighbors Food Bank
- Edmonds Food Bank
- Lynnwood Food Bank
- Foundation for Edmonds School District

Access to Mental Health Services

- Compass Health
- Center for Human Services
- Project Access Northwest



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GOV. INSLEE HOSTED PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON

Gov. Jay Inslee spoke with members of Washington's hospitality, retail, and auto industries to discuss the steps different industries are taking to safely reopen. Link at right.

GOV. INSLEE ISSUES GUIDANCE FOR RESUMING PERSONAL SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN PHASE 2

Gov. Jay Inslee issued guidance yesterday for resuming personal services and professional services for counties granted variance under the Safe Start Phase 2 [recovery plan laid out last week](#). **Snohomish County remains in Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan.** Links to the guidance documents are at right.

RISK ASSESSMENT DASHBOARD UPDATED

See the link at right for the updated Risk Assessment Dashboard. The Risk Assessment Dashboard is updated on Wednesdays.

Partnerships that includes both nutritious food and mental health access include:

- Korean Women's Association

For more information please read Verdant's [news release](#).

Gov. Inslee Hosts Press Conference This Afternoon

Gov. Jay Inslee spoke with members of Washington's hospitality, retail and auto industries to discuss the steps different industries are taking to safely reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor was joined by: Anthony Anton, Washington Hospitality Association; Renee Sunde, Washington Retail Association; and Jennifer Moran, Washington Auto Dealers Association.

Tune into [TVW](#) to watch the recording.

Gov. Inslee Issues Guidance for Resuming Personal Services and Professional Services in Phase 2

Gov. Jay Inslee issued guidance Wednesday for resuming personal services and professional services for counties granted variance under the Safe Start Phase 2 [recovery plan laid out last week](#).

For the eight counties granted variance to move to Phase 2, personal services may resume, effective May 13.

"For purposes of this memorandum, 'personal services' includes cosmetologists, hairstylists, barbers, estheticians, master estheticians, manicurists, nail salon workers, electrologists, permanent makeup artists, tattoo artists, cosmetology schools, and esthetics school," the guidance states.

Inslee also released guidance today regarding the operation of professional services, effective May 13.

"A professional service provider is defined as an office-based occupation that typically serves a client base. This includes but is not limited to: accountants, architects, attorneys, engineers, financial advisors, information technologists, insurance agents, tax preparers, and other professional service occupations," the guidance states.

Guidance documents:

- [Memo: Resuming Personal Services](#)
- [Phase 2 Personal Services COVID-19 Requirements](#)
- [Memo: Resuming Professional Services](#)
- [Phase 2 Professional Services COVID-19 Requirements](#)

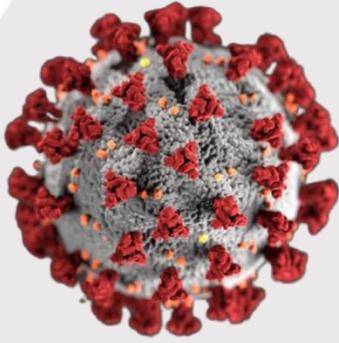
For more information please read the Governor's [news release](#).

[Full list of guidance for all current businesses.](#)

Risk Assessment Dashboard Updated

The state's COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard was updated yesterday. Daily testing numbers are holding steady around 6,000 per day on weekdays, but adequacy is mixed regionally with high positivity rates in some hot spot areas indicating potentially inadequate testing. The state is on track to train 1,800 personnel to support the case and contact tracing investigation program announced by Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday.

You can view additional updates on the dashboard [here](#).



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2020 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON & COVID-19 TELEBRIEFING

Today's Department of Health telebriefing covered ongoing planning efforts and considerations for this wildfire season from state and local natural resource, forestry, and wildland fire officials. Link to recording at right.

ESD LAUNCHES OPERATION 100% TO FOCUS ON 50,000 WASHINGTONIANS AWAITING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Operation 100% was launched to focus on approximately 50,000 individuals who have issues on their claims that need to be resolved by one of ESD's staff. Details and link at right.

STATE SEEKING INPUT ON DRAFT 2019 ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT FOR HUD CARES ACT FUNDS

Link to the proposed amendment to the state's action plan for HUD CARES Act funding is at right. Comments on the amendment will be accepted May 14-18, 2020.

2020 Wildland Fire Season & COVID-19 Telebriefing

Warm, sunny days have arrived for the state of Washington. This weather also marks the beginning of the wildfire season as the grasslands and forests begin to dry out. The COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation that has not been encountered before in wildland fire management. Today's Department of Health telebriefing covered ongoing planning efforts and considerations for this wildfire season from state and local natural resource, forestry, and wildland fire officials. Link to the briefing will be posted on the [Department of Health YouTube channel](#).

ESD Launches Operation 100% to Focus on 50,000 Washingtonians Awaiting Unemployment Benefits

The Employment Security Department (ESD) launched [Operation 100%](#) this week with the goal of delivering unemployment benefits to all Washingtonians who were impacted by COVID-19, are eligible for and want to receive them.

ESD has paid out nearly \$2.9 billion in benefits to Washingtonians over the past 10 weeks, but there are still Washingtonians who are waiting to receive their benefits. Operation 100% was launched to focus on approximately 50,000 individuals who have issues on their claims that need to be resolved by ESD's staff.

For more information please visit ESD's [webpage](#).



State Seeking Input on Draft 2019 Action Plan Amendment for HUD CARES Act Funds

The Washington State Five-Year Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plans determine priorities, establish strategic goals, and allocate resources received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the state departments of Commerce and Health.

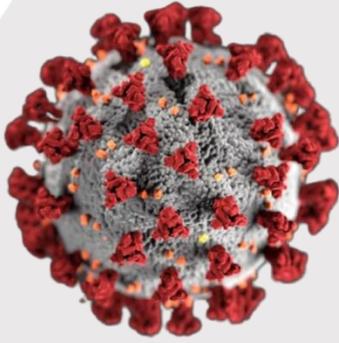
The proposed 2019 Action Plan Amendment outlines how Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds allocated by HUD to the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs will be awarded to local governments and organizations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 impacts.

In accordance with applicable federal citizen participation regulations and CARES Act waivers, the state's proposed 2019 Action Plan Amendment and Citizen Participation Plan will be open for public comment during a five-day public comment period from May 14-18, 2020, and available for review at <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/community-development-block-grants/cdbg-consolidated-plan-action-plan/>

To submit comments or request the Amendment in an alternate format, please contact julie.montgomery@commerce.wa.gov, (360) 725-2963, or mail to the Washington Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 42525, Olympia WA 98504-2525 for receipt by May 18, 2020.

State Economic Resiliency Team Update





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STATE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY TEAM UPDATE

The ERT Business Response Center has resolved 2,300 questions since April 8. Links to recent informative programming for businesses at right.

CORONAVIRUS AND FORBEARANCE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, BORROWERS, AND PARENTS

Federal student loan borrowers have automatically been placed in an administrative forbearance. Links to details at right.

WEEKLY CENSUS BUREAU SURVEY PROVIDES NEAR-REAL-TIME IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON SMALL BUSINESSES

The first results from the new U.S. Census Bureau Small Business Pulse Survey released today show a large negative effect from COVID-19 for the majority (51.4%) of respondents and an expectation that it will take more than six months for their businesses to return to normal. Link to the survey is at right.

Submit general questions about reopening, health and safety, and relief programs

The ERT Business Response Center has resolved 2,300 questions since April 8. The team is standing by to respond to questions as quickly as they come in. [Submit a question to the Business Response Center.](#)

Informative Programming

Association of Washington Business COVID-19 Webinar, with Q&A about Washington's reopening with representatives from the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, Employment Security Department, and the Department of Labor and Industries. (Watch video from [May 8.](#))

TVW's *The Impact: Road to Recovery* series:

- [Q&A with Chris Gregoire, Former WA Governor & Challenge Seattle CEO](#) ([LINK](#))
- [Q&A with Jan Gee, CEO of the Washington Food Industry Association](#)

Coronavirus and Forbearance Information for Students, Borrowers, and Parents

To provide relief to student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 national emergency, federal student loan borrowers have automatically been placed in an administrative forbearance, which allows borrowers to temporarily stop making monthly loan payments. This suspension of payments will last until Sept. 30, 2020, but borrowers can still make payments if desired. Read the [borrower Q&As](#) to learn more.

For borrowers participating in the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) program](#) who have a Direct Loan, were on a qualifying repayment plan prior to the suspension, and work full-time for a qualifying employer during the suspension, will receive credit toward PSLF for the period of suspension as though on-time monthly payments were made.

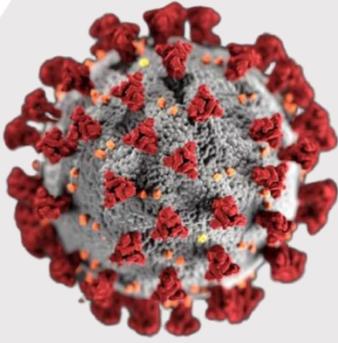
Weekly Census Bureau Survey Provides Near-Real-Time Impacts of COVID-19 on Small Businesses

The first results from the new U.S. Census Bureau Small Business Pulse Survey released today show a large negative effect from COVID-19 for the majority (51.4%) of respondents and an expectation that it will take more than six months for their businesses to return to normal. An average 31.4% expect more than six months will pass before their business returns to its usual level of operations. The survey was delivered to 100,915 small businesses in Week 1. 22,449 small businesses responded. The Census Bureau defines small businesses as single business locations with one to 499 employees and at least \$1,000 in annual revenue.

The Small Business Pulse Survey includes information on location closings, changes in employment, disruptions in the supply chain, the use of federal assistance programs, and expectations concerning future operations.

Please visit the Census Bureau's webpage to [continue reading](#) about key findings from the Small Business Pulse Survey.

IRS' People First Initiative Provides Relief to Taxpayers Facing COVID-19 Issues



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IRS PEOPLE FIRST INITIATIVE PROVIDES RELIEF TO TAXPAYERS FACING COVID-19 ISSUES

Due to COVID-19, the IRS' People First Initiative provides relief to taxpayers on a variety of issues. Details at right.

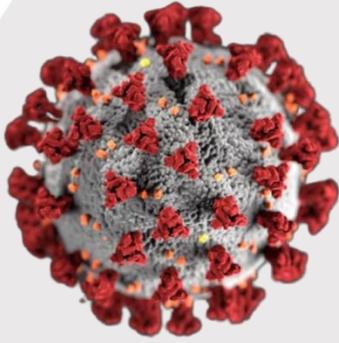
Due to [COVID-19](#), the IRS' [People First Initiative](#) provides relief to taxpayers on a variety of issues from easing payment guidelines to delaying compliance actions. This relief is effective through the filing and payment deadline, Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

- Existing Installment Agreements – Under an existing Installment Agreement, payments due between April 1 and July 15, 2020 are delayed. Those currently unable to meet the terms of an [Installment Payment Agreement](#) or Direct Deposit Installment Agreement may cancel payments during this period with no default. By law, interest will continue to accumulate on any unpaid balances.
- New Installment Agreements – People who can't pay all their federal taxes can establish a monthly payment agreement.
- Pending Offer in Compromise applications – Taxpayers have until July 15, 2020, to provide additional information for a pending OIC. The agency generally won't close any pending OIC request before July 15 without the taxpayer's consent.
- OIC payments – Taxpayers can delay all payments on accepted OICs until July 15, 2020. Interest may accrue, and missed payments are due when the suspension period ends. Taxpayers can call the number on their acceptance letter to address their needs.
- Delinquent return filings – The IRS will not default an OIC for taxpayers who are delinquent in filing their tax return for 2018. However, they should file any delinquent 2018 return and their 2019 return by July 15, 2020.
- Non-filers – More than 1 million households who haven't filed tax returns in the last three years are owed refunds. The deadline to get refunds on 2016 tax returns is July 15, 2020. Those who owe taxes on delinquent returns may visit [IRS.gov](#) for [payment options](#). The longer the debt is owed, the more penalties and interest accrue.
- Field collection activities – IRS stopped field revenue officer enforcement actions, such as liens and levies. Revenue officers will continue to pursue high-income non-filers and perform other similar activities where necessary.
- Automated liens and levies – IRS delayed issuing new automated and systemic liens and levies. Taxpayers experiencing a hardship due to a levy should reach out to their assigned IRS contact or fax their information to (855) 796-4524.
- Certifications to the State Department – IRS has delayed new certifications of taxpayers who are considered seriously delinquent. This affects a person's ability to receive a new or renewed passport. Existing certifications will remain in place unless their tax situation changes.
- Private debt collection – IRS will not forward new delinquent accounts to private collection agencies during this period.

For more information please read the IRS' [People First Initiative](#).

10 New Rules of the Trail

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance published a new blog post encouraging to recreate responsibly by following the new rules of the trail:



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10 NEW RULES OF THE TRAIL

Link to the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance blog post on recreating responsibly is at right.

CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Please note: The statistics are also available on the [Snohomish Health District website](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211 for help**. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

1. Check before you go. Not all trails opened on May 5th.
2. Ride solo, or only with housemates.
3. Ride local. Keep it short.
4. Keep your distance.
5. Rethink trail etiquette.
6. Prioritize loops and directional trails.
7. Trailheads and parking lots are not hangouts.
8. Be self-sufficient.
9. Protect trail crew.
10. Shift your perspective and express your appreciation!

For more information please read the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance's [blog post](#).

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of May 14, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Confirmed	2,754
Probable	295
Deceased	122

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Arlington	115 (94 recovered)
Bothell*	200 (147 recovered)
Brier	19 (17 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	313 (231 recovered)
Everett	876 (583 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	24 (19 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	116 (96 recovered)
Lynnwood	588 (396 recovered)
Marysville	232 (172 recovered)
Mill Creek	48 (39 recovered)
Monroe	74 (59 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	100 (76 recovered)
Mukilteo	54 (51 recovered)
Snohomish	140 (119 recovered)
Stanwood	95 (73 recovered)
Sultan	8 (<5 recovered)
Tulalip	19 (9 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	12 (11 recovered)
Woodway	8 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.