

# COVID-19

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

## WASHINGTON STATE COVID-19 DATA DASHBOARD

Visit Washington State's COVID-19 Data Dashboard for confirmed cases and deaths by county.

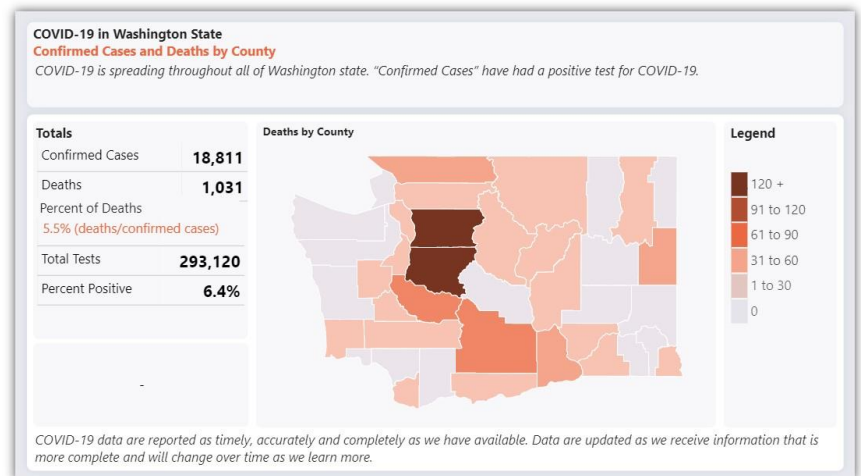
## SNOHOMISH COUNTY ANNOUNCES FURLOUGHS

In order to mitigate financial impact of COVID-19, Snohomish County has announced upcoming furloughs.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

### COVID-19 Deaths in Washington State

Please visit Washington State's COVID-19 [Data Dashboard](#) for daily confirmed cases and deaths by county.



### Snohomish County Council and Executive Joint Resolution – County Government Furloughs

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACKNOWLEDGING THE FISCAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 AND AUTHORIZING COUNTYWIDE ACTION

WHEREAS, the entire world is feeling the effects of the global pandemic known as COVID-19 with nearly 4.6 million people infected, nearly 1.5 million of those living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued a "stay-at-home" order on March 23, 2020, currently in effect through May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of both the virus and order were felt immediately throughout the nation and Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County estimates a 2020 General Fund revenue loss of at least \$26.9 million due to COVID-19; and

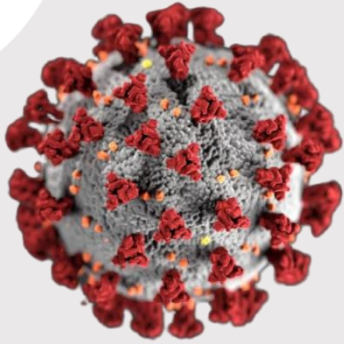
WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic, over 36 million Americans had filed for unemployment as of May 12, 2020, including over one million Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council and Executive took immediate action to mitigate some of the impact through eliminating 2020 salary increases for management and exempt personnel, as well as a Countywide hiring freeze; and

WHEREAS, additional steps are required to achieve cost savings of at least \$26.9 million are needed by the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, County leadership values its employees and wants to ensure minimal layoffs and reductions-in-force; and

WHEREAS, furloughing employees Countywide on a rolling basis for set periods can assist in reaching budgetary targets while maintaining County services, maintaining employee positions and worker benefits, and



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## WA PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT PLUMMETS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SOARS

Washington lost 527,000 jobs in April, bringing the unemployment rate to 15.4 percent.

ensuring long-term County sustainability to provide much needed services to the community; and

WHEREAS, employees may receive enhanced benefits through recent Federal coronavirus relief legislation, including additional unemployment, if the County can act quickly in reaching targeted budget goals through Countywide furloughs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Snohomish County Council and County Executive, do hereby declare that the fiscal crisis demands urgent action. Their intent is to achieve cost savings of at least \$26 million by reducing all departmental budgets Countywide and to notify all separately elected officials that it is in the County's and employees' best interests to impose rolling employee furloughs Countywide immediately.

FURTHERMORE, the Snohomish County Council encourages separately elected officials to work with the County Executive to meet required budgetary reductions by imposing a minimum five-day furlough for all non-represented employees and to negotiate the same for all represented employees.

APPROVED this 20th day of May, 2020.

### WA Payroll Employment Plummets, Unemployment Rate Soars

OLYMPIA – Washington's economy lost 527,000 jobs in April and the state's preliminary seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate for April increased from 5.1 percent to 15.4 percent according to the Employment Security Department (ESD).

Month	Total Job losses	Unemployment rate	2019 Unemployment Rate
March 2020	25,400	5.1 percent	4.5 percent
April 2020	527,000	15.4 percent	4.4 percent

The Employment Security Department released the preliminary job estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of its [Monthly Employment Report](#).

The department also announced that March's previously reported unemployment rate of 5.1 was confirmed. March's preliminary estimated loss of 11,100 jobs was revised to a loss of 25,400 jobs.

The national unemployment rate (preliminary) rose from 4.4 percent in March 2020 to 14.7 percent in April 2020. In April 2019, the national unemployment rate (revised) was 3.6 percent.

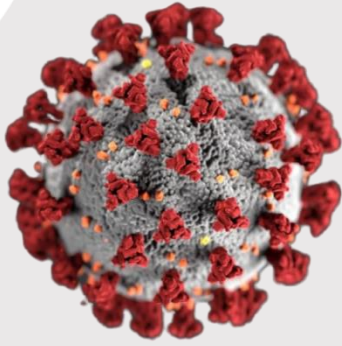
Employment Security paid regular unemployment insurance benefits to 599,735 people in April, an increase of 414,277 over the previous month.

Washington lost an estimated 485,800 jobs from April 2019 through April 2020, not seasonally adjusted. The private sector contracted by 16.3 percent, down an estimated 463,900 jobs, while public sector employment contracted 3.7 percent with a net loss of 21,900 jobs.

From April 2019 through April 2020, twelve out of the thirteen major industries contracted while only the information sector added jobs.

The three industry sectors with the largest employment losses year-over-year, not seasonally adjusted, were:

- Leisure and hospitality down 190,700 jobs
- Construction down 74,100 jobs



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## GOV. INSLEE EXTENDS COVID-19 PROCLAMATION ON VISITATION AND REMEDIAL SERVICES

The proclamation waives requirements for in-person visitation by children in custody of DCYF.

## GOV. INSLEE AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR CASCADE CARE

Inslee reiterates the need for the health care option-for-all.

- Education and health services down 59,400 jobs

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

## Gov. Inslee Extends COVID-19 Related Proclamation on Visitation and Remedial Services

Governor Jay Inslee announced the extension of one proclamation today in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

A May 18, 2020, [letter](#) from the Legislature extends proclamation [20-33.2](#) until May 31.

DCYF - Visitation and Remedial Services ([20-33.4](#))

This proclamation waives requirements for in-person visitation by children in the custody of the state Department of Children, Youth, and Family (DCYF) with family and DCYF caseworkers. It also waives requirements for DCYF to provide parents and children in child dependency cases with remedial services, which include things like coordinating family visits. The order will help prevent COVID-19 transmission between the foster parents, relatives, group homes, and others caring for children in DCYF's custody.

Nothing in this order, or in the "[Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#)" order, is intended to prevent compliance with a private parenting plan.

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

## Gov. Inslee Letter Affirms Support for Cascade Care, Washington's Public Option

In case you missed it: Governor Jay Inslee reiterated his support for Cascade Care on Tuesday in a [letter](#) to Washington State Health Care Authority Director Sue Birch and Washington State Health Benefit Exchange CEO Pam MacEwan.

The letter reads, in part:

"Today we are in the midst of a public health crisis, the likes of which I have never before experienced. It is more important than ever before that we continue forward with Cascade Care and introduce high quality, affordable health insurance options to the people of Washington for 2021.

"I fully recognize the challenges of introducing such a bold program and understand that this will be a multi-year journey. Our current situation has tested the mettle of our state's entire healthcare system. While Cascade Care may take a preliminary approach in its initial year, we fully expect it to flourish in future years."

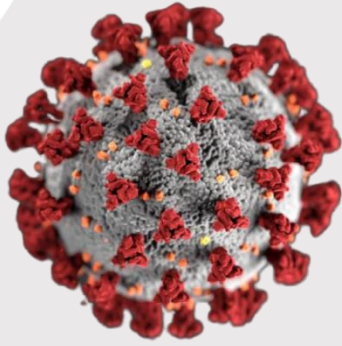
Last year, the governor signed the [landmark health care legislation](#) creating Cascade Care, the nation's first public option health insurance plan. This came after several years of hard work to expand and protect healthcare under the Affordable Care Act.

Representative Eileen Cody, who sponsored the legislation & chairs the House Health Care and Wellness Committee, thanked the governor for his continuing work to implement the program.

"We are the first in the nation to pass legislation creating a public option, and now we must continue to blaze that trail to offering Cascade Care plans to Washingtonians. I applaud the governor's decision to continue on this path," Cody said.

Senator David Frockt, who sponsored the bill in the Senate, also praised the governor's continuing commitment.

"I'll do whatever I can to help see this and other measures through and keep people in this state covered. With great crisis comes great opportunity if we are creative and seize on it," Frockt said.



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## **GOV. INSLEE ISSUES GUIDANCE FOR REAL ESTATE AND FITNESS OPERATIONS SET TO OPEN IN PHASE 2**

Through the Washington "Safe Start" plan, businesses will be able to re-open in Phase 2.

## **WA STATE EXPANDS CAPACITY TO TRACK AND PREVENT COVID-19**

Training is underway for case investigators and contract tracers.

Read the full [letter](#).

Background: Washington state to launch first-in-the-nation [health care option for all and new long-term care program](#)

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

## **Gov. Inslee Issues Additional Guidance for Real Estate and Fitness Operations in Phase 2**

Governor Jay Inslee on Tuesday issued guidance for resuming real estate and fitness operations in Phase 2.

Through the Washington "Safe Start" plan, more businesses and activities will re-open in phases, with adequate safety and health standards in place. Each phase will be at least three weeks.

Additionally, counties with less than 10 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents over a 14-day span can apply for a variance to move to Phase 2 of "Safe Start" before other parts of the state. County variance applications will be approved or denied by the secretary of the Department of Health. Ten counties have received the variance.

For counties granted variance to move to Phase 2, real estate operations may resume, effective May 19.

Guidance documents:

- [Memo: Phase 2 Real Estate Requirements](#)
- [Phase 2 Real Estate COVID-19 Requirements](#)

Inslee also released guidance today regarding fitness and training operations, which may resume, effective May 19.

- [Memo: Resuming Fitness and Training](#)
- [Phase 2 Fitness and Training Restart COVID-19 Reopening Requirements](#)

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

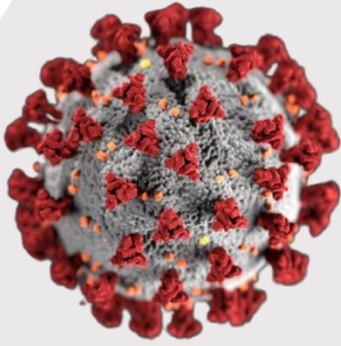
## **Washington State Expands Capacity to Track and Prevent Spread of COVID-19**

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health is rapidly training personnel to [support case investigations and contact tracing](#). As of May 19, 723 National Guard personnel and 769 Department of Licensing personnel have been trained to help local health jurisdictions with this work as needed.

Case investigations and contact tracing are key public health strategies to prevent the spread of disease. Public health staff interview people who test positive for COVID-19 to identify and contact anyone who may have been exposed while they were contagious. The public's participation is voluntary. This process ensures everyone who gets or is exposed to the virus has access to information and services to protect themselves and their loved ones.

These personnel supplement roughly 630 local and state public health professionals already available to do this work. The state is also reviewing applications from thousands of volunteers across Washington and finalizing the plan to appropriately screen and train volunteers if needed in the coming months.

The increase in people able to do this work supports two key future goals: contact everyone with a positive test result for COVID-19 within 24 hours to determine their close contacts; and contact all close contacts within 48 hours. The public's participation in these efforts is voluntary.



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## NEW DOH BLOG POST

Do's and Don'ts of wearing a cloth face covering.

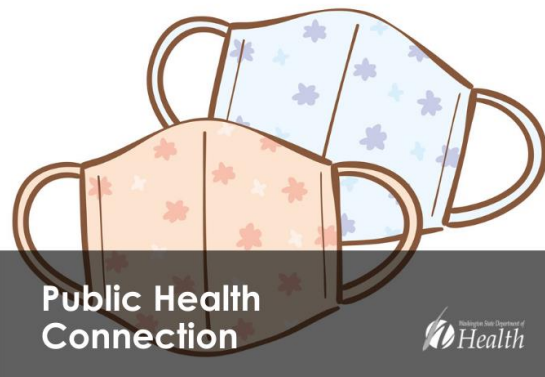
## FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN SOME COUNTIES

See the list of counties now requiring face coverings at right.

## New DOH Blog Post: Cloth Face Coverings - The Do's and Don'ts of Wearing Them

- DO make sure the cloth face covering covers both your mouth and nose.
- DON'T wear surgical-grade masks or N95 respirators. We need to reserve those for health care and other frontline workers.
- DON'T think that wearing cloth face masks means we can gather in large groups of people. For most of the state, all gatherings are prohibited. For the counties that are in Phase 2, all gatherings of more than 5 people outside your household are prohibited.
- DON'T think that wearing a cloth face mask makes it safe to come within six feet of other people. At best, a cloth face covering is just one added level of precaution. It doesn't really help unless we are also washing our hands, staying home when we are sick, and practicing physical distancing.
- DON'T wear a cloth face covering while exercising outdoors. It's not dangerous, just annoying and not necessary.
- DON'T put a cloth face covering on a child under age 2 or on a person with a disability that keeps them from being able to remove it.
- DON'T touch your cloth face covering after you put it on. Try not to touch your face at all.
- DON'T worry that a cloth face covering might restrict your oxygen. It's not airtight. If you ever feel like you're having trouble breathing, remove the cloth face covering and sit down. If the feeling persists, call 911.

For more information please read [DOH's blog post](#).



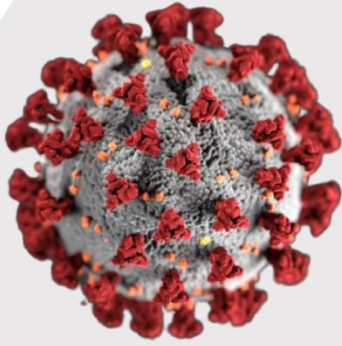
## Face Covering Directives Become the Norm For Some WA Counties

The following counties in our region have announced cloth face covering directives:

- [King County](#)
- [San Juan County](#)
- [Whatcom County](#)

## US-Canada Border Closure Extended to June 21

As of April 22, there continues to be a temporary restriction on all non-essential travel at the Canada-U.S. border. This restriction has been



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## **BORDER CLOSURE EXTENDS TO JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>**

## **PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON TRANSIT USE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Community Transit surveying riders to determine how transit is viewed since the onset of COVID-19.

## **COMMUNITY TRANSIT TO RESTORE FARE COLLECTION**

Community Transit will begin collecting fares on Swift Blue and Swift Green bus routes on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

extended until June 21, 2020, and can be prolonged as necessary for public health reasons.

For more information please read the Canada Border Services Agency's [news release](#) and [Tweet](#).



## **Public Input Sought on Transit Use in Response to COVID-19**

Snohomish County, Wash. – During the state's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order Community Transit's bus ridership has decreased approximately 70%. Today, the agency launched a survey to learn more about how riders and others view transit since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, and their priorities for the future.

The survey is open to all Community Transit customers and community members who may not have been frequent riders before the pandemic, but would like to provide feedback.

While the agency has reduced its weekday service levels by 30% in response to decreased ridership, it continues to provide essential travel to approximately 12,500 riders each weekday. As part of the survey, the agency is seeking feedback on the updated service measures that have been implemented for customer safety.

The survey, accessible at [//Bit.ly/CTSpringSurvey2020](https://bit.ly/CTSpringSurvey2020), is available now through Friday, May 29. Results of the survey will influence decisions the agency will make over the next few months.

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

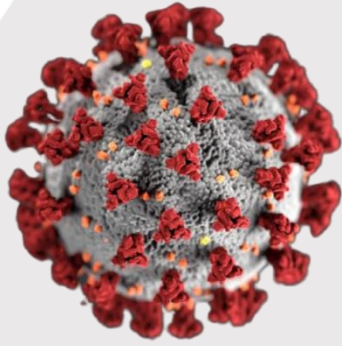
## **Community Transit to Restore Fare Collection on Swift Bus Rapid Transit, Monday, June 1**

Snohomish County, Wash. – Community Transit will begin collecting fares for Swift Blue and Swift Green bus rapid transit lines Monday, June 1. Unlike other Community Transit bus routes, Swift riders pay fares at Swift stations, not at the front of the bus.

Fares on all other Community Transit buses will remain suspended for the month of June, with a plan to restore fare collection in the coming months based on updated safety measures.

Community Transit temporarily suspended the collection of fares in March





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## SOUND TRANSIT WILL RESUME FARES

Light link rail and Sounder commuter rail will resume June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## WA FERRIES MAKES NEW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

Part of the social distancing requirements are installing floor and chair markings to remind customers to stay 6 feet apart.

to allow riders to board and exit buses through the middle and rear doors. This allows for increased physical distance between riders and bus drivers. The agency also blocked off the front section of its buses for the protection of drivers. Only ADA customers are allowed to use the front door and sit in the front section.

With guidance from public health officials, Community Transit has taken other measures since March to increase safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, including nightly disinfecting of all buses and closing some seats to allow for increased physical distance between riders. The agency continues to remind riders to:

- Wear face coverings;
- Cover coughs and sneezes;
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use transit for essential travel only.

Beginning Monday, June 1, Swift riders will be able to pay for rides at Swift stations with an ORCA fare card or by using cash or credit card at the ticket vending machines. Ticket vending machines and ORCA readers will be disinfected regularly and ORCA cards are available for purchase [online](#).

Community Transit offers a reduced bus fare for income-eligible riders through the ORCA LIFT program. People receiving benefits from the State of Washington, including food, medical, and/or cash benefits, have the option to [apply online](#) for the ORCA LIFT program.

More information on the ORCA LIFT program is available [here](#).

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

## Sound Transit Will Resume Fares, but at Reduced Rate, on Light Rail, Commuter Trains June 1

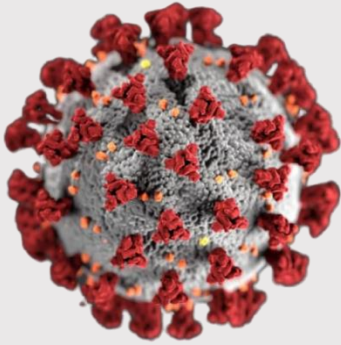
Fares on Link light rail and Sounder commuter rail will resume June 1 as our region starts to get moving again.

In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, Sound Transit will offer temporarily reduced Recovery Fares. The fare of \$1 on Link and \$2 on Sounder will be available from ticket vending machines through June 30.

For more information please read Sound Transit's [announcement](#).

## Washington State Ferries Makes New Social Distancing Guidelines





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## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY PRIDE FESTIVAL CANCELLED**

The announcement was made earlier today.

## **SCAM ALERT: TEXTS FROM TARGET OFFERING FREE GROCERIES IS A SCAM**

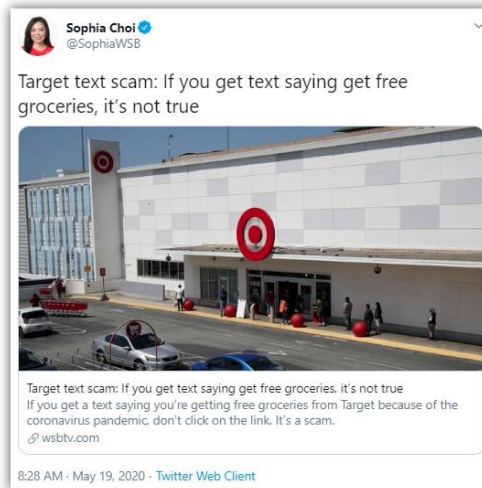
Do not click on links from text messages claiming to be from Target offering \$175 in grocery relief.

## **Snohomish County Pride Festival Cancelled**

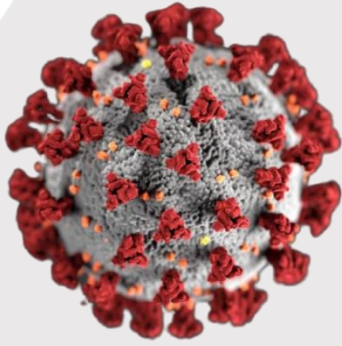


## **Scam Alert: Text Claiming Target Offering Free COVID-19 Groceries is a Scam**

Please do not click on links from text messages claiming to be from Target offering \$175 in grocery relief. Clicking on the link allows scammers to track your passwords and credit card numbers.







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## 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**.

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of May 20, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Confirmed	2,825
Probable	338
Deceased	132

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Arlington	118 (99 recovered)
Bothell*	211 (167 recovered)
Brier	20 (18 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	327 (252 recovered)
Everett	916 (672 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	24 (20 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	117 (101 recovered)
Lynnwood	602 (462 recovered)
Marysville	242 (184 recovered)
Mill Creek	50 (41 recovered)
Monroe	79 (62 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	104 (88 recovered)
Mukilteo	56 (54 recovered)
Snohomish	146 (127 recovered)
Stanwood	95 (78 recovered)
Sultan	8 (<5 recovered)
Tulalip	20 (13 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.