

COVID-19

Thursday, June 18, 2020

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES UPDATED RELIGIOUS AND FAITH-BASED SERVICES GUIDANCE

Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday announced updated guidance for religious and faith-based services.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADJUSTS REPORTING OF COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

Washington State Department of Health is expanding reporting on COVID-19 deaths to better identify whether COVID-19 caused or contributed to a particular death.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

Governor Updates Guidance For Religious And Faith-based Services

Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday announced [updated health guidance](#) for religious and faith-based services as more counties move forward under Washington's [Safe Start](#) recovery plan.

Phase 3 would permit indoor capacity of 50% or 400 people, whichever is less. Health requirements for social distancing and facial coverings will remain the same as the guidance for previous phases.

For services taking place in modified Phase 1 and Phase 2 counties, indoor services are allowed at 25% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. In health guidance for services taking place in Phase 1 counties, only outdoor services are permitted, with no more than 100 attendees.

Find the full guidance document [here](#).

[Full list of current reopening guidance.](#)

State Department of Health Adjusts Reporting of COVID-19 Related Deaths

The state Department of Health is expanding reporting on COVID-19 deaths to better identify whether COVID-19 caused or contributed to particular deaths. The changes will remove non-COVID-19 deaths from the statewide total, and break down the overall data to include more specific categories.

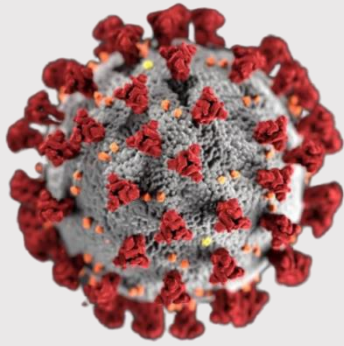
Until now, when a death is reported as a COVID-19 death, it is because the person who passed away also tested positive for COVID-19. However, this method doesn't just reflect the deaths of people whose deaths were caused by COVID-19; it can include someone who may have died of other causes.

These changes in reporting will take place in two phases. Phase 1 will take place on June 17, and Phase 2 will roll out over the next few weeks.

Phase 1: Remove deaths where COVID-19 did not contribute to the state death count. For Phase 1, this will result in seven deaths being removed, including two suicides, three homicides, and two overdose deaths. Four of the deaths are from King and three are from Yakima. Additional non-COVID-19 deaths may be removed throughout the course of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Phase 2: Expands how the state reports deaths to identify whether officials can confirm or rule-out COVID-19 as a contributing cause of death, including identifying probable and suspected deaths. As part of Phase 2, future COVID-19 death classifications will include whether:

1. COVID-19 contributed to the death (death certificate, testing, and other case information available to confirm);
2. COVID-19 probably contributed to the death (death certificate information available but testing information not available);
3. COVID-19 is suspected to have contributed to death (follow-up being conducted prior to ruling out or confirming death); or
4. COVID-19 did not contribute to the death (examples include homicide, overdose, suicide, car accident, or disease with clear exclusion of COVID-19 illness).



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EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL CLOSER TO APPROVING PLAN FOR CARES ACT FUNDING

Edmonds City Council is expected to approve their plan for the spending of \$1.2 million in federal CARES Act funding next week.

REMINDER: SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY RECORDED UPDATES AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Daily updates on Safe Start status plus guidance for staying healthy are available by phone. Phone numbers at right.

These changes will help DOH deliver an even more accurate count of COVID-19 deaths, as well as offer the additional context of reporting of suspect, probable, and non-COVID-19 related deaths.

DOH will continue to review our processes to ensure we are providing accurate, up-to-date information and data as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A [short Q&A](#) about these changes is available on the DOH website.

Meanwhile, the state also reported that it had corrected a [mistake in reporting negative test results](#). A work around established to handle the high volume of negative test results led to negative antibody tests being included with negative molecular tests in the total negative test numbers. This affects numbers reported since April 21 and inflated the number of negative test results by 13 percent. DOH has corrected the error and says no decisions were made based on these incorrect numbers.

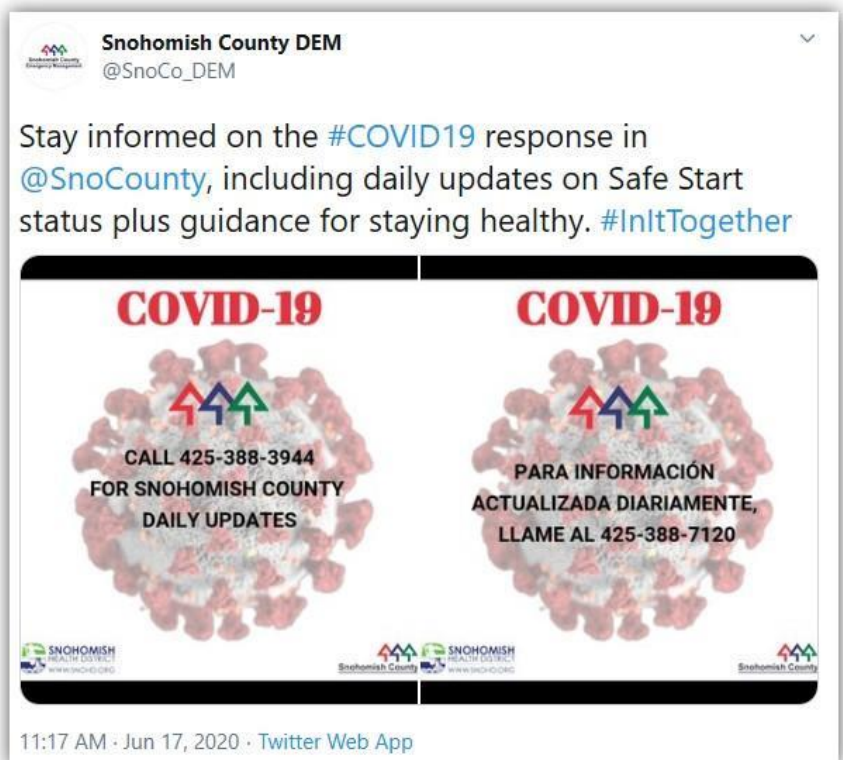
Edmonds City Council Closer to Approving Plan for CARES Act Funds

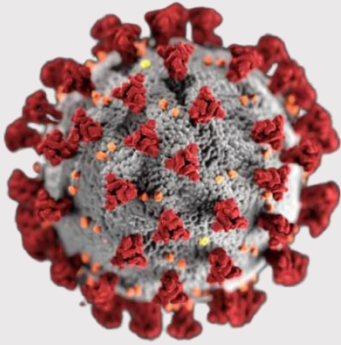
After numerous amendments, the Edmonds City Council is closer to approving a plan for Edmonds CARES Act funds.

Following Tuesday night's council meeting for the City of Edmonds, councilmembers decided to wait until next week to approve their plan for the spending of \$1.2 million in federal CARES Act funding.

For more information please read the [article](#).

Reminder: Snohomish County Daily Recorded Updates Available in English and Spanish





COVID-19

WILDFIRE SEASON AND COVID-19 ARE A TOUGH COMBINATION

Take steps now to get your home ready to keep wildfire smoke out. Details at right.

ESD ANNOUNCES AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE, USED TO CALCULATE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Washington State Employment Security Department announced that Washington's average annual wage grew by 6.7% in calendar year 2019 to \$69,000. The average annual wage is used to calculate unemployment benefits for jobless workers and computing employers' unemployment taxes.

FDA CAUTIONS PET OWNERS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

The FDA has released a new video cautioning pet owners about protecting pets from coronavirus. Link at right.

GETTING TO SAFE TOOLKIT NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH, RUSSIAN

The toolkit designed to help businesses safely reopen during the COVID-19 crisis is being translated to languages other than English. Link at right.

Wildfire Season and COVID-19 are a Tough Combination

With summer, comes the risk of wildfire. And with wildfires, come smoke. Wildfire smoke is especially harmful for children, pregnant women, and people who are over 65. And if you already have a heart or lung condition like asthma or COVID-19, breathing in wildfire smoke can make it worse. Breathing in wildfire smoke can also weaken your immune system, which might make you more likely to get COVID-19. [Take steps now](#) to get your home ready to keep smoke out and have better indoor air quality. And if you live in an area where you might have to evacuate because of wildfire, don't forget to add cloth face coverings and hand sanitizer to your emergency bag.

ESD Announces Average Annual Wage Increase, Used to Calculate Unemployment Benefits

The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) announced that Washington's average annual wage grew by 6.7% in calendar year 2019 to \$69,000. This is the largest percentage increase year over year since 1999.

The average annual wage is used to calculate unemployment benefits for jobless workers. The minimum weekly unemployment benefit, calculated at 15% of the average weekly wage, will increase by \$13 to \$201, for new claims opened on or after July 5th. At the same time, the maximum weekly benefit, which is the greater of \$496 or 63 percent of the average weekly wage, will increase by \$54 to \$844.

In addition to unemployment benefits, the average annual wage is used in computing employers' unemployment taxes. Beginning in 2021, employers will pay unemployment taxes on the first \$56,500 paid to each employee—up from \$52,700 in 2020.

The State average wage also is used by the Department of Labor & Industries in calculating worker's compensation benefits.

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

FDA Cautions Pet Owners In New Video about Protecting Pets from COVID-19

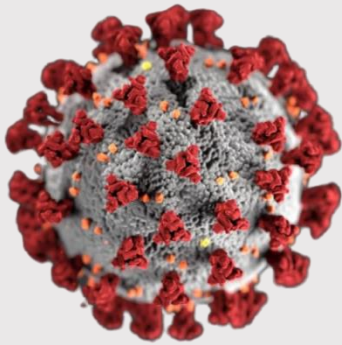
Pets might not infect people with coronavirus, but pet owners need to protect cats, dogs and other companion animals, the US Food and Drug Administration cautioned in a new YouTube video.

For more information please visit the FDA's [webpage](#) and watch their [video](#).

Getting to Safe Guide Now Available in Spanish, Russian

The [Getting to Safe Toolkit](#) for reopening businesses, a City of Everett project developed in part with guidance from Snohomish Health District, has now been translated to Spanish and Russian.

In coordination with Snohomish County and Snohomish Health District, translation to more languages is underway. The Safe Start guidebook is full of checklists and information, as well as a host of tools and resources to help businesses reopen. It contains materials that can be used by businesses across Snohomish County.



COVID-19

WHAT'S OPEN IN EACH PHASE OF SAFE START PLAN?

The state's COVID-19 Joint Information Center has prepared a general summary that quickly describes what is open during each phase of the Safe Start plan.

CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

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.

What's Open in Each Phase of the State's Safe Start Plan?

The state's COVID-19 Joint Information Center has [prepared a general summary](#) of what's open in each phase of Safe Start.

Snohomish County is in Phase 2, but a dozen counties have moved on to Phase 3 and others remain in Phase 1. Visit the [county status page](#) to see which phase a county is in and for more information about modified phases.



Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of June 18, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:05 p.m.
Confirmed	3,213
Probable	444
Deaths	159

Jurisdiction	Count (Recovered)
Arlington	131 (124 recovered)
Bothell*	224 (207 recovered)
Brier	23 (22 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	367 (315 recovered)
Everett	1,081 (894 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	30 (27 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	132 (120 recovered)
Lynnwood	678 (601 recovered)
Marysville	299 (231 recovered)
Mill Creek	59 (50 recovered)
Monroe	94 (79 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	120 (109 recovered)
Mukilteo	68 (61 recovered)
Snohomish	170 (152 recovered)
Stanwood	116 (94 recovered)
Sultan	9 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	25 (22 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.