

COVID-19

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

REPORT: REOPENING SCHOOLS COULD CAUSE COVID-19 CASES TO SPIKE, UNLESS COMMUNITY TAKES STEPS NOW

A new report suggests that reopening schools without engaging multiple preventative measures may lead to a significant increase in COVID-19 cases. Dr. Chris Spitters called for the community to consider how behaviors during the pandemic may affect schools.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF SMALL BUSINESS GRANT AWARDS

A total of 437 Snohomish County small businesses received awards in the second round of the Relief, Recovery and Resiliency (R3) grant program. The selection committee had \$7.087 million to award.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

Report: Reopening Schools Could Cause COVID-19 Cases to Spike, Unless Community Takes Steps Now

A new [report](#) suggests that reopening schools without engaging multiple preventative measures may lead to a significant increase in COVID-19 cases.

The Washington State Department of Health, Public Health – Seattle & King County and [Institute for Disease Modeling](#) worked together and used data to simulate different scenarios and strategies for reopening schools.

The analysis, released Wednesday, focused on King County schools but has implications across the state. It found that without taking countermeasures, the number of new COVID-19 cases there could double over the three-month period between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1.

The report identifies a suite of countermeasures for use inside and outside classrooms. A key piece would be limiting community mobility – something that has been rising since much of the state moved into Phase 2 of the Safe Start plan, the report said.

“Reopening schools cannot be considered in isolation – what happens outside of schools is as important as what happens inside of schools,” Lacy Fehrenbach, DOH’s deputy secretary of health for the COVID-19 response, said in a press release. “The most important step we can take to reopen schools this fall is to come together to reduce spread of the virus in our communities and statewide.”

Dr. Chris Spitters, Snohomish Health District Health Officer, said people here need to consider how their behaviors during the pandemic may affect schools.

“Our schools are working hard to prepare for multiple scenarios, and this is no small feat,” he said. “While we all want to see students being able to return to school and some semblance of normalcy, we also need to ensure that it is safe for them, the staff and families to be able to do so.”

“This report highlights both the precarious position we are currently in with disease transmission, as well the urgent need for everyone to step up and help us get to a place where schools can safely reopen. Snohomish County’s kids are depending on us, as are the families and businesses impacted by school closures.”

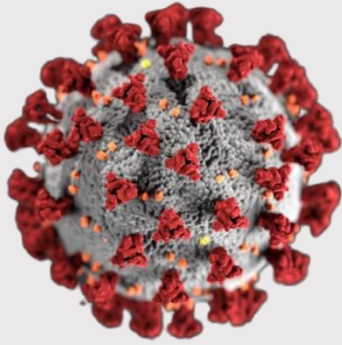
The report suggests that the region is not ready to safely reopen schools.

“Recent case data collected since this report was drafted indicate that levels of disease activity following the move to Phase 2 are too high to support school reopening at this time,” the report said. “Thus community-wide mitigation efforts must improve significantly such that the effective reproductive number is below 1 at the end of August for schools to reopen in September without triggering exponential growth in COVID-19 burden.”

For more information, [read the report](#) or the [full press release](#).

Snohomish County Announces Second Round of Small Business Grant Awards

Snohomish County on Tuesday announced grant awards for the second round of the Relief, Recovery and Resiliency (R3) grant program. The R3 grant program is part of the county’s plan to use federal CARES Act



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JULY 20 DEADLINE FOR EDMONDS SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Next Monday, July 20, is the deadline for Edmonds businesses to apply for the Small Business Grants of up to \$10,000. Details and link to apply are at right.

REMINDER: WELL-CHILD CHECK-UPS AND IMMUNIZATIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY

Make sure your child is up-to-date on immunizations and set up appointments if they are not. Healthcare providers have created safe environments to complete these essential check-ups.

resources to support those businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our businesses and their workers need our support,” said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. “We will continue to look for opportunities to bolster our economic recovery and be strong advocates for more federal funding. We know how important these funds are for people’s livelihoods and that not everyone who needs a grant has gotten one. We are pushing to do even more to bridge the gaps in our community.”

“We are eager to get these federal funds into the hands of our small business owners and their employees,” said Snohomish County Council Chair Nate Nehring. “Too many people across Snohomish County are hurting, and we will continue to find ways to support them. We will do what we can until the pandemic is behind us.”

The county received 509 R3 applications totaling over \$9 million in requests in the second round, and the selection committee had \$7.087 million in grant funds to award. There were also 1,619 applications from round one that were considered in round two, representing a total request of nearly \$30 million. A total of 437 small businesses received awards in round two.

This grant program was part of the package of COVID-19 responses proposed by Executive Somers, approved by the County Council, and funded by CARES Act resources. That package includes: \$55 million for Public Health and Emergency response activities, including PPE; \$37 million for economic stabilization; \$25 million for human/social services and housing; \$6 million for essential government services; and \$20 million for emergency contingencies.

For more information, read the [full press release](#).

July 20 Deadline for Edmonds Small Business Grants

The City of Edmonds is accepting applications for grants up to \$10,000 for eligible small businesses (0-30 employees). The Edmonds Cares Fund Business Support Grants Program is intended to provide financial relief to local small businesses that have suffered from reduced revenue and/or increased costs of doing business as a result of the COVID-19-related economic crisis in an effort to help them remain in business.

Application and details [here](#).

Reminder: Well-Child Check-Ups and Immunizations Are Important for Keeping Kids Healthy

Back to school? Be ready!

Snohomish County healthcare providers are working hard to make safe spaces for well-child check-ups and immunizations. Call now to schedule an appointment and stay safe, stay healthy, stay vaccinated.

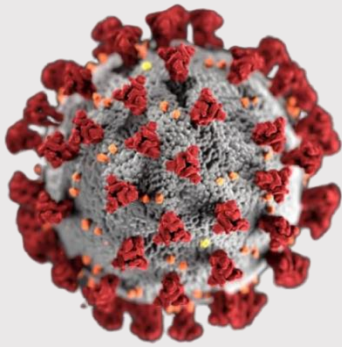


Need help signing up for insurance or finding a healthcare provider?

- Go to www.snohd.org/immunization-resources
- Call the Help Me Grow Washington Hotline: 1-800-322-2588
- Visit www.ParentHelp123.org



Snohomish County healthcare providers have created safe environments for check-ups and immunization appointments. The Snohomish Health District reminds parents or guardians to talk with their child’s medical provider to make sure they are up-to-date on immunizations and to set up an appointment if they are not. While we do not yet have a vaccine for COVID-19, many other serious illnesses can be prevented.



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VIDEO: R-NAUGHT EXPLAINED

The Joint Information Center published a brief social media video that aims to explain R0 – or R-naught. Links at right.

LOOKING FOR A FACE COVER? INTERACTIVE MAP SHOWS OPTIONS

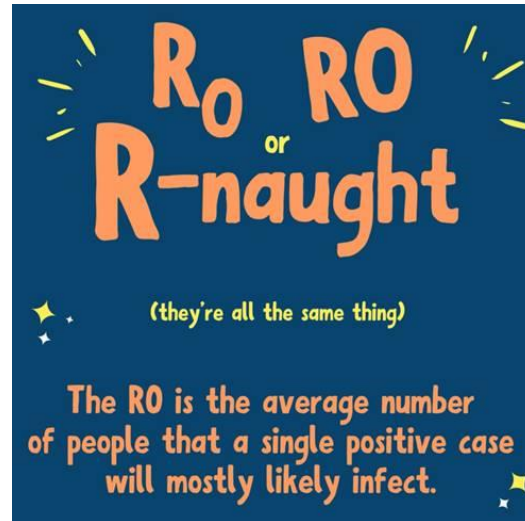
Snohomish County has mapped food banks and other locations in Snohomish County where free masks are being distributed.

INSLEE EXTENDS TRUCK DRIVER EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

Gov. Jay Inslee announced the extension of the state waiver of truck driver hours restrictions through August 14, 2020.

For more information, flyers are available in multiple languages, including [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), and [Ukrainian](#).

Video: R-Naught Explained



The Joint Information Center on Wednesday published a brief social media video that aims to explain R0 – or R-naught – the average number of people likely to be infected by a single positive case of a disease such as COVID-19. Wearing face covers, limiting travel, practicing social distancing and keeping gatherings small are all strategies that can limit the spread of infection. The R0 goal is to get a number less than 1. **Snohomish County now has a R0 of 1.59 for COVID-19.**

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Looking for a Face Cover? Interactive Map Shows Options



When you wear a face covering in public you are taking a step to spread kindness, not COVID-19. We've mapped food banks and other locations in Snohomish County where free masks are being distributed: <https://bit.ly/SnoCoHub>

The map contains confirmed information about locations where people may obtain free face covers in the county. Most are being shared through area food banks, local cities and during

special distribution events. Operating hours and locations are subject to change, so check ahead before you go.

[Facebook](#)

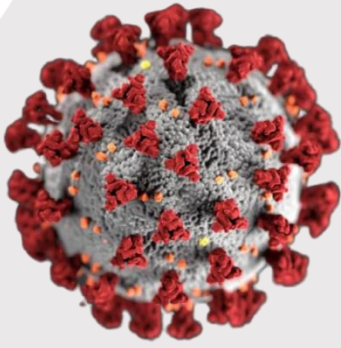
[Twitter](#)

Inslee Extends Truck Driver Emergency Proclamation

Gov. Jay Inslee announced the extension of one [proclamation](#) in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. This proclamation extends the state waiver of truck driver hours restrictions through August 14, 2020.

[The original proclamation](#) waived/suspended the restrictions on truck driver hours through April 17, and was later renewed through July 14.





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WASHINGTON EMPLOYMENT BEGINS TO GROW AS BUSINESSES START TO REOPEN

The preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June decreased from 15.1 percent to 9.8 percent.

AMTRAK CASCADES SERVICE FACING CHALLENGING SUMMER

WSDOT has published a blog that provides an update on Amtrak Cascades service challenges.

CDC PRODUCES FACT SHEETS ON COVID-19 FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The CDC has produced a series of factsheets on COVID-19 for young adults, ages 15-21. Link at right.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has extended the federal restrictions through August 14. After consulting with the state's Emergency Management Division, an extension of the state's waiver of these rules continues to be needed.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Washington Employment Begins to Grow as Businesses Start to Reopen

Washington's economy added 71,000 jobs in June and the state's preliminary seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate for June decreased from 15.1 percent to 9.8 percent according to the Employment Security Department. This was the biggest month-to-month drop in the Washington unemployment rate (5.3%) in state records going back at least to 1990.

"The gain in nonfarm payroll employment coupled with the revision to May's job gains are a welcome surprise and another step in the right direction," said Paul Turek, economist for the department. "That said, the road ahead looks to be bumpy as the virus continues to spread, creating a less predictable situation for the economy reopening."

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

From May 2020 to June 2020, the number of people who were unemployed statewide decreased from 593,900 to 388,400. In the Seattle/Bellevue/Everett region, the number of people who were unemployed decreased from 246,600 to 165,400 over the same period.

Amtrak Cascades Service Facing Challenging Summer

As with many other transportation modes, 2020 is proving to be a challenging year for Amtrak Cascades service. The spread of COVID-19 led to large drops in ridership, Canadian border closures, new safety and distancing protocols to protect passengers and staff and significant decreases in revenue.

To keep you informed WSDOT has published a blog that provides an update on several Amtrak Cascades topics, including:

- COVID-19 challenges
- Ridership levels
- Train equipment
- Point Defiance Bypass
- Plans for the future

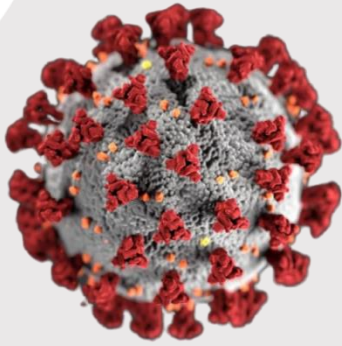
You can read the blog at: <https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2020/07/an-update-on-amtrak-cascades.html>

CDC Produces Fact Sheets on COVID-19 for Young Adults



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has produced a series of factsheets for young adults, ages 15-21. The factsheets cover a variety of topics, including what test results mean, how to stay safe at the pool or beach, how to wear a face covering and other preventive measures. [More information here](#).



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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.

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 15, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Confirmed	4,156 (up 27 cases from 7/14)
Probable	529 (up 8 from 7/14)
Death	177

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Arlington	185 (130 recovered)
Bothell*	337 (221 recovered)
Brier	25 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	430 (347 recovered)
Everett	1,385 (1,017 recovered)
Gold Bar	5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	35 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	206 (131 recovered)
Lynnwood	783 (649 recovered)
Marysville	405 (274 recovered)
Mill Creek	74 (55 recovered)
Monroe	134 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	140 (118 recovered)
Mukilteo	81 (72 recovered)
Snohomish	233 (170 recovered)
Stanwood	141 (106 recovered)
Sultan	12 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	39 (24 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	20 (11 recovered)
Woodway	9 (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.