

# COVID-19

Thursday, July 16, 2020

## GOV. INSLEE ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO ALLOWED ACTIVITIES UNDER 'SAFE START' PLAN

At a press conference Thursday, Gov. Jay Inslee announced changes to health and safety restrictions in light of increasing COVID-19 case rates.

### VIDEO: KEEP GATHERINGS SMALL

The Joint Information Center on Thursday published a brief social media video using animals to encourage people to keep group size small as a strategy to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

### Gov. Inslee Announces Changes to Allowed Activities Under 'Safe Start' Plan

Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday announced changes to health and safety restriction in light of increasing COVID-19 case rates statewide.

Effective Monday, July 20, all indoor and outdoor live entertainment is prohibited. Also, the cap on social gatherings for any county in Phase 3 will be lowered to no more than 10 people. This will apply to counties that move into Phase 3 in the future. Snohomish County remains in Phase 2 at this time, and gatherings are capped at no more than five people from outside of your household in a seven-day period.

There are some exceptions. Spiritual gatherings, weddings and funerals may continue to operate [under existing guidance](#).

Reports from public health staff around the state show that COVID is spreading largely through social gatherings, said Inslee and Secretary of Health John Wiesman.

"We are jeopardizing the momentum we gained with the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order," Wiesman said.

Statewide, the 7-day rolling average for cases is up to 629 cases per day. That's the highest it has been at any point during this pandemic.

In particular, cases are rising among a younger demographic. Although younger people may not get as ill as those who are older or who have pre-existing health condition, they still can become severely ill and die of this disease. They also can spread it to those who are more vulnerable, and Inslee said we must anticipate a rise in hospitalizations as cases continue to climb.

If the people of Washington cannot get COVID under control through key steps such as avoiding gatherings and wearing cloth face coverings, the governor noted that he "cannot rule out another stay home order this year."

Wiesman also noted that the current trend of increasing cases would make it unsafe to resume in-person instruction in schools this fall.

"We really can't go safely forward unless we all do our part," he said.

To watch the recording, visit [TVW](#).

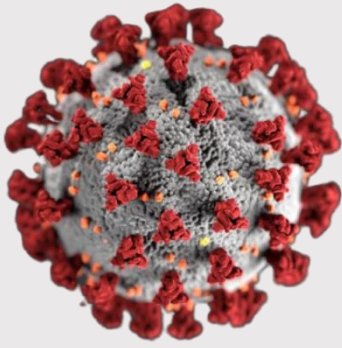
### Video: Keep Gatherings Small

The Joint Information Center on Thursday published a brief social media video using animals to encourage people to keep group size small as a strategy to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19. Yes, the video's star is a trash panda.

Under Washington's [Safe Start](#) plan, Snohomish County remains in Phase 2, and people are encouraged to limit outside contact to no more than five people each week outside their immediate family.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



# COVID-19

## MAP LETS YOU WEIGH RISK OF GATHERING, TRAVELING

An interactive map prepared by Georgia Tech and the Applied Bioinformatics Laboratory allows you to quickly calculate the risk of encountering at least one person who is infected with COVID-19 in nearly every county across the U.S. Click on the image at right to access the interactive map.

# Be like the raccoon!



**Keep your gatherings small.**

**And don't forget...  
Wear a face covering!**

**Wash your paws!**



## Map Lets You Weigh Risk of Gathering, Traveling

An [interactive map](#) prepared by Georgia Tech and the Applied Bioinformatics Laboratory allows you to quickly calculate the risk of encountering at least one person who is infected with COVID-19 in nearly every county across the U.S. A unique feature of the map is that it allows calculating risk based on the size of a potential gathering in each location, from as few as 10 people to as many as 10,000.

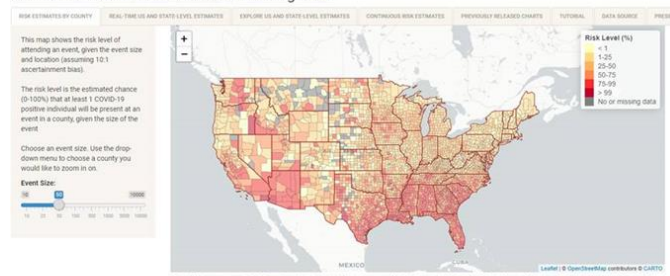
The map could be helpful in considering travel risk. Thinking about ignoring guidance that you limit trips, and are gearing up to attend a wedding in Phoenix, Ariz., with 50 guests? The data suggest a 98% chance of encountering somebody infected with COVID-19 at your destination.

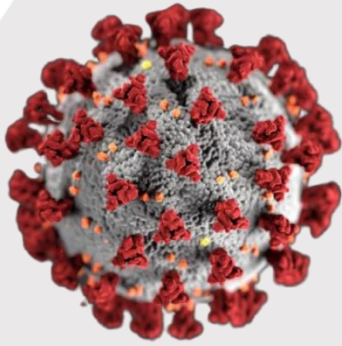
In Snohomish County, attending a gathering with 10 people would present a 7% risk of encountering a COVID-19 infected person; a gathering of 100 people -- 53%; 1,000 people -- 99%.

The map's creators say the risk calculations support the ongoing need for social distancing and protective measures.

"Such precautions are still needed even in small events, given the large number of circulating cases," they wrote.

### COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool





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## **PANDEMIC EBT EMERGENCY SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE BY AUG. 31**

Because of COVID-19, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school will get extra food benefits. P-EBT is a new and temporary food benefit to help families buy groceries because schools were closed. Applications must be submitted by August 31.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS CONTINUE TO RISE**

Snohomish County unemployment claims continue to rise. See additional details at right.

## **ADDITIONAL \$600 IN FEDERAL BENEFIT FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS SET TO END JULY 25**

Unless Congress acts to extend or adjust it, the additional \$600 per week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Program (FPUC) benefits will stop after the week ending Saturday, July 25.

## **Pandemic EBT Emergency School Meals Program Applications Due Before Aug. 31**

Because of COVID-19, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school will get extra food benefits. P-EBT is a new and temporary food benefit to help families buy groceries because schools were closed.

The program is open to any family with a child in grades K-12 who is eligible for free or reduced-price school meals — including children who go to a school where meals are free for **all** students.

P-EBT is for all students regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The only requirement is a child must be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

Applications must be submitted by August 31. Call 877-501-2233 or visit [WashingtonConnection.org](http://WashingtonConnection.org) to apply.

Get [full details here](#).

## **Unemployment Claims Continue to Rise**

Snohomish County unemployment claims continue to rise. There were 4,614 initial regular claims filed during the week of July 5-11, up from 3,262 the week before, the state Department of Employment Security reported Thursday.

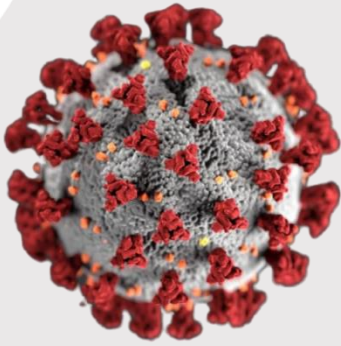
Those numbers mirrored state results, with 40,466 initial regular unemployment claims filed, up more than 42% from the previous week.

“Over the past several weeks we’ve seen new claims continue to fluctuate as the economy moves with the shifting realities of this pandemic,” ESD Commissioner Suzi LeVine said in a press release. “ESD and our workforce partners are committed to supporting both workers and employers as they navigate the changing workforce landscape. For those looking to return to work, or who cannot yet return due to the crisis, I encourage you to check out the [return to work](#) and [refusal of work pages](#) on our website for more information, as well as [WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com) for information for both job seekers and employers. And for employers looking to avoid layoffs or slowly ramp up re-hiring during this crisis, SharedWork is a great program that can help. You can learn more at [esd.wa.gov/SharedWork](http://esd.wa.gov/SharedWork).”

## **Additional \$600 in Federal Benefit for Unemployed Workers Set to End July 25**

Unless Congress acts to extend or adjust it, the additional \$600 per week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Program (FPUC) benefits, available under the federal CARES Act, will stop after the week ending Sat., July 25, 2020. FPUC is entirely federally funded and available only at federal discretion. State employment agencies administer the benefits but do not have a say in whether these benefits are extended.

“We are committed to supporting both workers and employers as they navigate the changing workforce landscape,” said Employment Security Department Commissioner, Suzi LeVine. “ESD and our partners in the WorkSource system are here to help in the search for a new job or a new career, or maintain benefits if you cannot yet go back to work. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, many employers are still hiring across the state, and with the expiration of the additional \$600 in benefits on the horizon it is a good time to look for your next opportunity. WorkSource offices around Washington offer online workshops, training opportunities and virtual one-on-one help with everything from writing resumes and cover letters, to job application assistance and interview preparation. Go to



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## FACE COVERING GUIDANCE OFFERED IN 17 LANGUAGES

The state Department of Health has made Mandatory Face Covering guidance available in English and the other top 16 languages spoken in Washington.

## WEBINAR FOCUSES ON PANDEMIC RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A panel of state and federal partners host a webinar series specific to Washington small businesses. Link to register is at right.

[WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com) for information about your local WorkSource office as well as job listings and resources for job seekers and employers."

Nearly all individuals currently receiving unemployment benefits, or benefits under the federal CARES Act programs, receive the additional \$600 per week on top of their base weekly benefit amount. For those eligible for benefits between April 4, 2020 and July 25, 2020, if they should get resolution on their claims after the July 25, 2020, they are still eligible for back payments of FPUC funds for all weeks for which they were eligible.

As of July 11, Employment Security has distributed a total of \$4,425,152,128 in FPUC benefits.

## Face Covering Guidance Offered in 17 Languages

The state Department of Health has made sure the Mandatory Face Covering Guidance is available in English and the other top 16 languages spoken in Washington. Links here:

- [English \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Amharic \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Arabic \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Simplified\) \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Traditional\) \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Hindi \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Khmer \(Cambodian\) \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Korean \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Marshallese \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Punjabi \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Russian \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Samoan \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Somali \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Spanish \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Tagalog \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Ukrainian \(Adobe PDF\)](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

## Webinar Focuses on Pandemic Relief for Small Businesses

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought us into unprecedented times, and State and federal leaders have had to react for the health of our people and economy. This [webinar series](#) reviews information specific to Washington small businesses. A panel of state and federal partners is present to respond to live Q&A regarding unemployment insurance, returning employees to the workplace, relief funding, workplace safety measures and other topics important to employers. The next webinars will be held on [July 21 and July 30](#), and Spanish-language webinars will be held on [July 28 and July 30](#).

MULTIPLE DATES

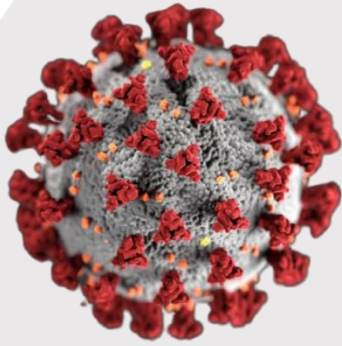
Small Business Requirements and Resources (SBRR) COVID-19 Impact Webinar

by Small Business Liaison Team - Department's of Employment Security, Labor &...

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# COVID-19

## IRS WARNS OF COVID-19 TWISTS TO TAX SCAMS

The IRS today announced its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

## CDC: EVERYONE REACTS DIFFERENTLY TO COVID-19 STRESS

How you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, and other factors. There are proven, healthy ways to take care of yourself and cope with stress.

## IRS Warns of COVID-19 Twists to Tax Scams

The Internal Revenue Service today announced its annual "["Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams](#)" with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

This year, the Dirty Dozen focuses on scams that target taxpayers. The criminals behind these bogus schemes view everyone as potentially easy prey. The IRS urges everyone to be on guard all the time and look out for others in their lives.

"Tax scams tend to rise during tax season or during times of crisis, and scam artists are using pandemic to try stealing money and information from honest taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The IRS provides the Dirty Dozen list to help raise awareness about common scams that fraudsters use to target people. We urge people to watch out for these scams. The IRS is doing its part to protect Americans. We will relentlessly pursue criminals trying to steal your money or sensitive personal financial information."

This year's list includes:

- Phishing
- Fake charities
- Threatening impersonator phone calls
- Social media scams
- Economic Impact Payment or refund theft
- Senior fraud
- Scams targeting non-English speakers
- Unscrupulous return preparers
- Offer in compromise mills:
- Fake payments with repayment demands
- Payroll and HR scams
- Ransomware

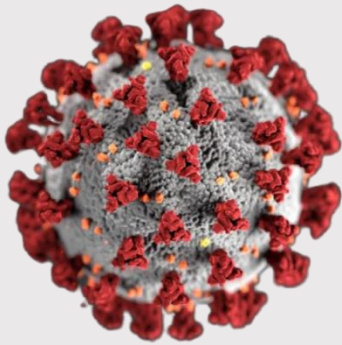
For more information, including detailed descriptions of each tax scam, read the [full press release](#).

## CDC: Everyone Reacts Differently to COVID-19 Stress

How you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, the community you live in, and many other factors. The changes that can happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways we try to contain the spread of the virus can affect anyone.

People who may respond more strongly to the stress of a crisis include:

- People who are [at higher risk for severe illness](#) from COVID-19 (for example, older people, and people of any age with certain [underlying medical conditions](#)).
- [Children](#) and [teens](#).
- People [caring for family members or loved ones](#).
- Frontline workers such as [health care providers and first responders](#).
- Essential workers who work in the [food industry](#).
- People who have existing [mental health conditions](#).
- People who use [substances](#) or have a substance use disorder.
- People who have lost their jobs, had their work hours reduced, or had other major changes to their employment.
- [People who have disabilities](#) or developmental delay.
- People who are [socially isolated](#) from others, including people who live alone, and people in rural or frontier areas.



# COVID-19

## MASKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN COVID-19 FIGHT

A growing body of evidence shows widespread wearing of face coverings is key to reducing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

## 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.

- People in some [racial and ethnic minority groups](#).
- People who do not have access to information in their primary language.
- People experiencing [homelessness](#).
- People who live in [congregate \(group\) settings](#).

There are proven, healthy ways to take care of yourself and cope with stress. [Learn more](#).

## Masks Make a Difference in COVID-19 Fight

Federal, state and local public health experts agree that a growing body of evidence shows widespread wearing of face coverings is key to reducing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

In an editorial published earlier this week in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed the latest science and affirms that cloth face coverings.

"We are not defenseless against COVID-19," said CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield. "Cloth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus – particularly when used universally within a community setting. All Americans have a responsibility to protect themselves, their families, and their communities."

Read the [CDC's full press release](#).

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 16, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Confirmed	4,257 (up 101 cases from 7/15)
Probable	528 (down 1 from 7/15)
Deaths	179

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.
Arlington	190 (130 recovered)
Bothell*	343 (221 recovered)
Brier	25 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	437 (347 recovered)
Everett	1,411 (1,017 recovered)
Gold Bar	5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	36 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	213 (131 recovered)
Lynnwood	793 (649 recovered)
Marysville	408 (274 recovered)
Mill Creek	74 (55 recovered)
Monroe	154 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	145 (118 recovered)
Mukilteo	81 (72 recovered)
Snohomish	240 (170 recovered)
Stanwood	144 (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.

