

COVID-19

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



Wednesday, July 29, 2020

REMOTE LEARNING RECOMMENDED FOR START OF SCHOOL YEAR IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District, has recommended to Snohomish County public school superintendents and private school administrators that they plan for distance learning for the start of the school year.

Health Officer Recommends Remote Learning for Start of School Year in Snohomish County

Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District, [today provided a recommendation](#) to Snohomish County public school superintendents and private school administrators that they plan for distance learning for the start of the school year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [released updated guidance for K-12 administrators](#) to aid in preparing for the upcoming school year. Washington's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also issued a [district planning guide](#) for reopening schools. These recommendations, as well as [a recent statement](#) from State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, all point to the need for local schools and local public health officials to work together to make local decisions.

The level of COVID-19 transmission in the community is one of a number of factors considered when making decisions for the coming year. While school-age children are not typically a high-risk population for this illness, there are many staff and some students who are particularly vulnerable to severe illness due to COVID-19 because of age or underlying medical conditions. It also is important to remember that even otherwise healthy staff and students can have serious and long-lasting complications from a COVID-19 infection, and that transmission in schools may amplify transmission in the community.

Recent case investigations here in Snohomish County have seen one confirmed case quickly spread through a business or an entire household. When considering resuming in-classroom school in the midst of high community transmission, the goal is to reduce the chances of a student or staff member spreading the disease to friends, family members, neighbors, or others who are more vulnerable.

The continued upward trajectory of COVID-19 cases in Snohomish County is concerning. The county's case rates have continued to climb for more than a month and the rate is now at nearly 100 cases per 100,000 population. This is close to the rate Snohomish County experienced in March when schools first closed.

"Taking all of this into consideration, I have concluded that reopening schools for in-person classes at this time poses a substantial risk to the school and the surrounding community--especially its medically vulnerable members," Spitters said. "We know that fall is quickly approaching, and plans need to be finalized on how schools will start the academic year. By making this recommendation now, I hope that provides our schools and their staff and families with as much time as possible to prepare for online learning."

The ability to safely resume in-person instruction in schools is directly linked to the actions of the community. There are steps we all must take to slow the

GOV. INSLEE INDEFINITELY EXTENDS PAUSE ON COUNTIES ADVANCING PHASES IN SAFE START PLAN

The pause on counties advancing phases is extended indefinitely due to the rise in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT FOOD SAFETY TEAM RELEASES INFORMATION TO FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS ON CHANGES TO SAFE START GUIDANCE

The new guidance for restaurants, taverns, breweries, wineries, and distilleries goes into effect on Thursday, July 30.

spread of COVID-19 and create an environment that allows for schools to reopen for on-site learning. These include:

- Wearing a face cover in public
- Maintaining at least six feet of distance from non-household members
- Avoiding gatherings larger than five people from outside of your household, and keeping your social group consistent
- Staying home and getting tested if you are feeling ill

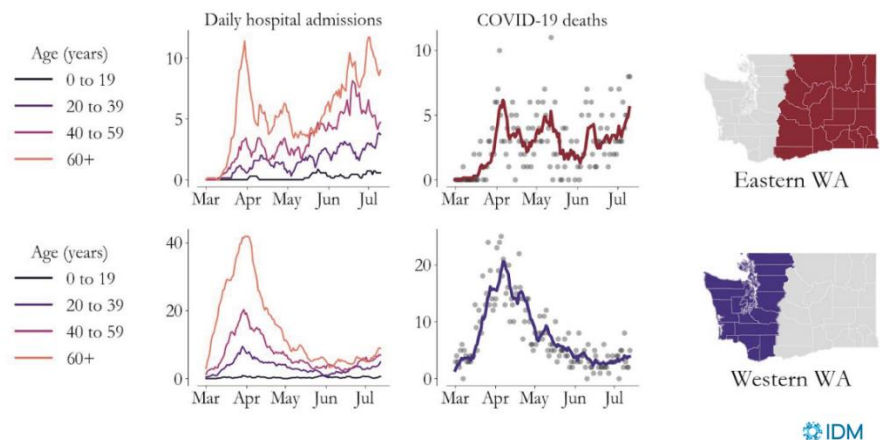
As we have experienced from the beginning, the COVID-19 pandemic is fluid and continually evolving. The Health District will continue to work with our local schools in the coming weeks and months.

The District wants to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and care for students and staff that local schools have continually demonstrated since the pandemic emerged earlier this year. The District remains committed to providing schools with the public health support they need, including guidance, data and resources, and also stands ready to provide disease investigation and contact tracing expertise in the event of cases or outbreaks.

School leadership, educators and families should also monitor guidance from the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) as well as the [Washington State Department of Health's schools information page](#).

Gov. Inslee Indefinitely Extends Pause on Counties Advancing Phases in Safe Start Plan

Yesterday, Gov. Jay Inslee announced that the pause on counties advancing phases in the state's Safe Start Plan is extended indefinitely. Inslee pointed to the increase in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, as noted in the [most recent statewide situation report](#), as the reason for the indefinite extension. Gov. Inslee stated, "It is irresponsible to continue opening until we get this virus back under control."



Snohomish Health District Food Safety Team Issues Information to Food Establishments on Changes to Safe Start Guidance

On Tuesday, Snohomish Health District's Food Safety Team sent out information to food establishments on the Governor's changes to the Safe Start Guidance. The new guidance that goes into effect on Thursday, July 30 includes:

- Indoor dining limited to household members. Outdoor dining is still available for individuals from separate households.
- Alcohol sales must end at 10 p.m. until Phase 4.
- Table size limited to 5 people from same household
- Bar-area seating is prohibited in all phases.
- Indoor service and/or consumption of alcohol at taverns, breweries, wineries, and distilleries is prohibited while the restrictions are in place. Liquor licensees are restricted to outdoor seating only.

- If a brewery or winery also has a restaurant permit, it may continue restaurant operations pursuant to the safety requirements for restaurants. All menu changes must be preapproved by the Snohomish Health District.
- For liquor licensees who want to add outdoor seating to their premises, please go to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) website https://lcb.wa.gov/covid19/covid-19_alcohol_licensee_guidelines

[Read the full list of changes here](#) or see the information from the Governor's office below.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LAUNCHES CORONA SURVEY

The Community Recovery-Oriented Needs Assessment (CORONA) is an effort to assess the behavioral, economic, social, and emotional impacts and the needs of communities across the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

INSLEE RELEASES UPDATED REOPENING GUIDANCE

Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday released additional guidance for gatherings, live entertainment, restaurants and taverns, entertainment and recreation centers, card rooms, movie theaters, and weddings and funerals.

AG FERGUSON TO TRUMP ADMINISTRATION: CORONAVIRUS DATA MUST BE REPORTED TO CDC

Attorney General Bob Ferguson partnered with a coalition of state attorneys general urging the Trump Administration to immediately withdraw its new reporting structure that prohibits hospitals from reporting COVID-19 data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Department of Health Launches CORONA Survey

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) launched the Community Recovery-Oriented Needs Assessment, or the CORONA survey. The survey is an effort to assess the behavioral, economic, social, and emotional impacts and the needs of communities across the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The CORONA survey results will inform immediate, long-term, and ongoing actions that DOH and local health jurisdictions can take to address the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on Washingtonians.

In order to appropriately and equitably inform recovery plans at the state and local levels, DOH is requesting residents from across Washington to go to www.wacoronasurvey.com to take part in the survey. (To take the survey by phone, call 855-530-5787—interpreters are available to assist.)

The survey is voluntary and confidential. At the end of the survey, participants will be given the option to provide their name, phone number and/or email address. Each week of the survey, three participants will receive a \$100 Amazon.com gift code as a thank you for their time and participation. If you have additional questions about the CORONA Survey, you can call the Washington State Department of Health at 1-800-525-0127.

Inslee Releases Updated Reopening Guidance

Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday released an additional guidance document following last week's announcement of guidance updates in Washington's [Safe Start](#) phased reopening plan following the extension of the [proclamation](#).

The [memo](#) outlines the updates to gatherings, live entertainment, restaurants and taverns, entertainment and recreational centers, card rooms, movie theaters, and weddings and funerals and builds upon [guidance released last week](#).

Read the full memo [here](#).

AG Ferguson to Trump Administration: Coronavirus Data Must be Reported to CDC

Attorney General Bob Ferguson on Tuesday partnered with a coalition of state attorneys general urging the Trump Administration to immediately withdraw its new reporting structure that prohibits hospitals from reporting COVID-19 data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The directive creates a system controlled solely by the U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services.

[In a letter](#) sent to Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Ferguson and 21 attorneys general urge the department to restore the CDC to its rightful role as the primary authority over and source of information about the nation's public health data. In the letter, the attorneys general write that the Trump Administration's decision to bypass the CDC in this national crisis harms the nation's ability to track and respond to the pandemic. It hampers state and local public health efforts to address the crisis in their communities and risks compromising the health data of millions of Americans.

CDC FINDS THAT RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 CAN TAKE A LONG TIME, EVEN IN YOUNG ADULTS

The CDC released findings of a telephone survey that indicates more than one-third of people diagnosed with COVID-19, but who did not have to be hospitalized, had not returned to their usual state of health within 2-3 weeks of being tested.

HHS RENEWS DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR COVID-19

Last week, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar formally renewed the agency's determination that the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency.

"We need reliable data and transparency now more than ever," Ferguson said. "The Trump Administration's move to circumvent our nation's top public health experts and upend the coronavirus data reporting system in the midst of this pandemic is irresponsible and deeply misguided — and must be reversed."

CDC Finds that Recovery from COVID-19 can Take a Long Time, Even in Young Adults

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released findings of a telephone survey that indicates more than one-third of people diagnosed with COVID-19, but did not have to be hospitalized, had not returned to their usual state of health within 2-3 weeks of being tested. Among those between the age of 18-34 with no chronic medical conditions, one in five had not returned to their usual state of health. These findings indicate that recovery from COVID-19 can take a long time, even in young adults.

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

Recovery from COVID-19 can take a long time, even in young adults with no chronic conditions

1 in 5 previously healthy young adults* weren't back to usual health 14-21 days after testing positive

*ages 18-34
Random sample of adult outpatients with COVID-19 from 14 U.S. academic health care systems

To stay well and protect others...

- Stay 6 feet away from others not living in your household
- Wash hands often
- Wear face coverings consistently and correctly in public

CDC.GOV bit.ly/MMWR72420 MMWR

HHS Renews Declaration of Public Health Emergency for COVID-19



Last week, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar formally [renewed](#) the agency's determination that the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency. The extension of this public health emergency keeps many regulatory changes and waivers relevant to psychiatrists—such as [relaxed telemedicine restrictions](#)—in effect for the time being.

In addition to maintaining relaxed telemedicine guidelines, the continuation of the emergency determination allows the Food and Drug Administration to quickly authorize the use of unapproved COVID-19 medications for patients and provides state and local health departments more flexibility to reassign some emergency personnel to respond to virus outbreaks.

As stipulated by law, the emergency extension—which began July 25—is valid for 90 days and thus due to expire at the end of October.

For more information please read HHS' [emergency health declaration](#).

EDMONDS AWARDS CARES GRANTS TO LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

The City of Edmonds offered 91 local small businesses grants of up to \$8,000 to help defray the extra costs and lost revenue associated with the COVID-19 economic crisis.



Edmonds Awards CARES Grants to Local Small Businesses

As part of its Edmonds Cares Fund, the City of Edmonds has offered 91 local small businesses grants of up to \$8,000 to help defray the extra costs and lost revenue associated with the COVID-19 economic crisis. All grant recipients have now been contacted. The City is pleased to be able to offer grants to well over half of the 162 businesses that sent in applications.

"All of the recipients are small businesses, most are minority- or women-owned, a large number have lost more than 70 percent of their business compared with last year, and many received little to no other grant funding," said Patrick Doherty, Director of Economic Development. "We are delighted to be able to offer these needed funds to a wide variety of businesses from throughout Edmonds."

On June 23, the City Council approved grants of up to \$10,000 to provide relief from the economic blow created by the COVID-19 crisis. Funding comes from an appropriation of \$700,000 from the \$1.256 million allocated to the City from the federal CARES Act. Grants

- 162 applied, 91 received grants. (Some applications were ineligible.)
- 83 will get \$8,000; the remaining few requested less
- 50% of businesses were outside the Bowl
- 78 of the 91 were minority- or women-owned businesses
- Approximately 40% had one-to-four employees
- Most suffered a 70% or greater economic loss

Due to the high volume of eligible applications, the City reduced the top award from \$10,000 to \$8,000, expanding the pool of recipients from approximately 70 to over 90. Selected businesses will now fill out notarized paperwork and will get their cash in about a week after submittal. The grant becomes a forgivable loan if the business remains open for at least four months.

"These small businesses make our City vibrant and unique," said Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson. "We don't want to lose these local establishments and hope this support helps bridge the gap."

[Read the full release.](#)

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER EXTENDS TWO EMERGENCY ORDERS RELATED TO COVID-19 TESTING

Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler has extended two emergency orders related to testing for COVID-19.

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The [emergency order](#) protecting consumers from receiving surprise bills for lab fees related to medically-necessary diagnostic testing for COVID-19 is extended until Aug. 27. His order applies to both in-state and out-of-state laboratories, when a provider orders diagnostic testing for COVID-19. His order also encourages health insurers to notify his office if out-of-network laboratories are not publishing cash prices or if they do not accept the published cash price as final payment for COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

The [emergency order](#) requiring health insurers to waive copays and deductibles for any consumer requiring testing for COVID-19 is also in effect until Aug. 27. In the order, insurers also must continue:

- Allowing a one-time early refill for prescription drugs.
- Suspending any prior authorization requirement for treatment or testing of COVID-19.
- In addition, if an insurer does not have enough medical providers in its network to provide testing or treatment for COVID-19, it must allow enrollees to be treated by another provider within a reasonable distance at no additional cost.

MUKILTEO KICKS OFF #MASKUPMUKILTEO CAMPAIGN

As part of the #MaskUpWA challenge, the City of Mukilteo has launched #MaskUpMukilteo.

Mukilteo Kicks Off #MaskUpMukilteo Campaign

As part of the #MaskUpWA challenge, the City of Mukilteo has launched #MaskUpMukilteo to celebrate those that are helping keep the community safe and healthy. Mukilteans are asked to snap photos of themselves sporting their masks and tag @cityofmukilteo on Instagram or use the hashtag #MaskUpMukilteo to have their photo repost.

Kamiak High School student Sally S. drew this [comic strip](#) to highlight the importance of wearing a mask correctly. Click the image to see the full version.



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](#).

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 29, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:36 p.m.
Confirmed	4,958 (up 52 cases from 7/28)
Probable	621 (up 13 from 7/28)
Deaths	184

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.

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:40 p.m.
Arlington	230 (147 recovered)
Bothell*	412 (260 recovered)
Brier	28 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	483 (370 recovered)
Everett	1,641 (1,144 recovered)
Gold Bar	8 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	38 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	246 (157 recovered)
Lynnwood	907 (684 recovered)
Marysville	463 (340 recovered)
Mill Creek	93 (57 recovered)
Monroe	197 (104 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	162 (125 recovered)
Mukilteo	93 (75 recovered)
Snohomish	315 (187 recovered)
Stanwood	158 (117 recovered)
Sultan	28 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	40 (26 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	23 (14 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.