

COVID-19

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



Thursday, July 30, 2020

GOVERNOR MOVES TO PROTECT PRIVACY OF CONTRACT TRACING INFORMATION

Gov. Jay Inslee signed a proclamation Thursday to make exempt from public disclosure personally identifying information gathered by COVID-19 contract tracers. Link to the recording at right.

MANY SNOHOMISH COUNTY SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR REMOTE LEARNING IN FALL

Six of Snohomish County's public school systems have announced plans to begin the school year using a remote learning model.

MASK UP, SAVE LIVES

The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington continues to project

Governor moves to protect privacy of COVID-19 contact tracing information

Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday took action to protect from public disclosure all personal information that is gathered as part of contract tracing efforts to stem the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Inslee told a televised press conference that is issuing a proclamation that will place off limits all personally identifiable information – such as names, birthdates, phone numbers and addresses – compiled as part of the contract tracing efforts now underway by public health officials.

[Proclamation 20-64](#) exempts personally identifiable information collected by COVID-19 case investigators from public disclosure. The proclamation does not provide additional exemptions for employees or volunteers who are conducting the contact tracing work, as the Public Records Act already exempts many types of personal information relating to public employees and volunteers. The proclamation expires Aug. 29.

Contract tracing is a powerful tool for containing the spread of the virus, and “For it to succeed, we need people to answer the phone,” Inslee said.

To watch a recording of the news conference, please visit [TVW.org](#).

Many Snohomish County schools announce plans for remote learning in fall

Six of Snohomish County's public school systems on Wednesday and Thursday announced plans to begin the school year using a remote learning model. Edmonds, Everett, Mukilteo, Lake Stevens, Stanwood and Darrington schools all said they plan to resume instruction in the fall using distance learning models. Discussions continue at school districts in Marysville, Arlington, Snohomish, Granite Falls and Sultan. Northshore School District on July 21 announced it will be all distance learning in the fall.

This week's announcements follow the Wednesday recommendation from Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for Snohomish Health District, that all Snohomish County schools should pursue distance learning options at the start of this academic year.

The full text of Dr. Spitters' remarks can be found at <https://bit.ly/SHDSchoolRec>

Mask up, save lives

The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington continues to project that wearing face covers can have a tremendous impact

that wearing face covers can have a tremendous impact on COVID-19

on COVID-19. The [latest data](#) suggest that universal mask wearing in Washington could result in roughly 1,200 fewer deaths through November 1.

If 95% of Americans wore masks each time they left their homes, infection rates would drop, hospitalizations would drop, and forecast deaths would drop.

Percent who say they always wear a mask when going out, July 24



UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DIP IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Snohomish County's initial regular claims filed decreased 9 percent from the week before.

Unemployment claims dip in Snohomish County

The state's Employment Security Department reports that during the week of July 19 through July 25, there were 28,840 initial regular unemployment claims (down 1.7% from the prior week) and 677,355 total claims for all unemployment benefit categories (up 0.6% from the prior week) filed by Washingtonians, according to the Employment Security Department (ESD).

Snohomish County's initial regular claims filed decreased from 3,499 to 3,199 down 9 percent from the week before.

Statewide, initial regular claims applications remain at unprecedented elevated levels and are at 524 percent above last year's weekly new claims applications.

Since the week ending March 7 when COVID-19 job losses began:

- A total of 2,338,445 initial claims have been filed during the pandemic (1,475,571 regular unemployment insurance, 461,407 PUA and 401,251 PEUC)
- A total of 1,280,794 distinct individuals have filed for unemployment benefits
- ESD has paid out over \$8.7 billion in benefits
- 966,464 individuals who have filed an initial claim have been paid

INSLEE EXTENDS HIGH-RISK EMPLOYEE PROTECTION

The original proclamation related to protections for high-risk employees and workers' rights has been extended through the duration of the state of emergency, or until otherwise rescinded or amended.

Inslee extends high-risk employee proclamation

Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday announced the extension of proclamation [20-46.1](#), first issued in April, which relates to protections for high-risk employees and workers' rights.

As a result of new [CDC guidance](#) regarding people at increased risk for severe illness, the extension will provide a clarifying [guidance memo](#). The guidance memo confirms that employees who are 65 and older continue to be covered by the proclamation and clarifies processes for employers of individuals with certain medical conditions.

The [proclamation](#) will remain in effect through the duration of the state of emergency, or until otherwise rescinded or amended.

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Read the full guidance memo [here](#).

MARYSVILLE ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY RENT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

Lower-income residents in Marysville who have fallen behind on rent payments due to COVID-19 are invited to apply for the new Marysville CARES Community Rent Relief grants. Link to the application at right.

Marysville announces Community Rent Relief Grant program



Marysville lower-income residents who have fallen behind on rent payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic are invited to apply for new Marysville CARES Community Rent Relief Grants. The two-week application period runs through Aug. 13. The Marysville City Council unanimously approved this new grant program at its meeting Monday evening.

"As the COVID pandemic persists longer than any of us hoped, I have heard from many Marysville residents that they are increasingly worried about paying the bills," Mayor Jon Nehring said. "A helping hand may offer a sense of hope in this difficult season."

Rent relief grants of up to \$1,500 per household are available to residents who meet these criteria:

- Live within Marysville city limits,
- Are behind in rental payments,
- Are economically impacted by COVID-19,
- Were not delinquent on rent for six months prior to March 1 (Sept. 2019-Feb. 2020)
- Current median monthly household income is below these amounts (60% of area median):

Number in household	Monthly / Annual income	Number in household	Monthly / Annual income
1 person	\$2,725 / \$32,700	5 persons	\$4,208 / \$50,490
2 persons	\$3,115 / \$37,380	6 persons	\$4,520 / \$54,240
3 persons	\$3,505 / \$42,060	7 persons	\$4,835 / \$58,020
4 persons	\$3,895 / \$46,740	8 persons	\$5,145 / \$61,740

Tenant applicants will need to verify income, landlord and/or living arrangement. When grants are awarded, checks will be sent to the landlord pending documentation and approval. Find more information and the application at <https://www.marysvillewa.gov/FormCenter/COVID19-Relief-Programs-22/City-of-Marysville-Temporary-Rental-Assi-110>.

This grant program will award up to a total of \$250,000 in federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funding distributed through the State of Washington. The city previously awarded other CARES funding through business rent relief grants and financial support of local community services responding to the COVID pandemic.

STAYING HOME IS STILL SAFEST

The State Department of Health is emphasizing the importance of individual choices in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Staying home is still safest

The State Department of Health is emphasizing the importance of individual choices in slowing the spread of COVID-19:

"Social gatherings are one reason we're seeing high rates of COVID-19 activity throughout the state," the state said in a [new guidance](#) posted to its website. "The warm weather provides tempting opportunities to gather with friends and family outside your immediate household. Every time we're around others and we talk, laugh, cough or sneeze, we may be spreading the virus because we often don't have any symptoms or know we have COVID19.

"Staying home is still safest. If you do go out, keep it quick, keep your distance and [wear a face covering](#). Recreate and do business locally to avoid spreading the virus across county lines. [Limit the number](#) of people outside your household that you gather with every week. If you [feel symptoms](#) of COVID-19, get [tested](#)."

A successful **Safe Start** means we all have to do our part.

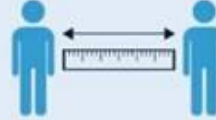
It's safest to stay home.

BUT IF YOU HEAD OUT:

Wear a mask.



Stay six feet apart.



Wash your hands.



Prevent the spread by staying local.

COMMERCE AWARDS MORE GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESS AFFECTED BY PANDEMIC

The final group of grants from the first round of the Governor's Working Washington Small Business emergency grant program have been awarded to 100 very small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Commerce awards more grants to small business affected by pandemic

The Washington State Department of Commerce on Wednesday announced the final group of grants from the first round of the Governor's [Working Washington Small Business emergency grant program](#) to 100 very small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Businesses with up to 10 employees in 13 counties across the state received a total of more than \$286,000 to cover costs including rent, utility bills, supplies, inventory and other operating expenses.

Agency officials focused on getting help into the hardest hit communities with these remaining funds from the initial program.

In total, over 1,500 Washington businesses are expected to receive over \$9.7 million, saving an estimated 5,500 jobs. Of these, initial data shows 360 are minority-owned, 749 are woman-owned, 109 are veteran-owned and 18 are Tribal-owned enterprises. A broad range of industries are represented, including retail, hospitality, manufacturing, construction and other sectors including healthcare, veterinary, child care, barbershops, salons, business services and more.

More than 130 businesses in Snohomish County received grants.

A summary and map of grant recipients is available on [Commerce's website](#).

Brown said another round of Working Washington grants is on the way very soon, funded with a portion of the state's Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds being administered through Commerce.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS OFFERS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

A key takeaway from the brief social media video from Snohomish County Parks: "No space? Find another place."

Snohomish County Parks offers pandemic guidelines

Beautiful weather and limits on travel had led to large crowds descending on area parks. Snohomish County Parks have seen crowds two and three times normal capacity on sunny days. A key takeaway from the brief social media video from Snohomish County Parks on recreating safely: "No space? Find another place."

[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Play prepared

3

Plan your park outing like you would for a hike. Pack food, water, supplies, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering. If a park is crowded, do not use it and head to your plan b location.



GIF



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.

NEED A BREAK? DISTANCE, REMOVE YOUR MASKS, AND REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Wearing a face covering can get hot. It's okay to take a safe break.

L&I extends relief again for employers struggling to pay workers' comp premiums due to pandemic

The [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#) is again extending the deadline for employers who are finding it difficult to pay their workers' compensation premiums during the coronavirus outbreak.

Under L&I's extension, employers who are participating in the Employer Assistance Program have until Nov. 2 to pay their workers' compensation premiums for the second quarter (April-May-June). Without the extension, the full payments would have been due on July 31. L&I previously extended the due date for first quarter premiums (January-February-March) through July 31.

Interested employers must still reapply for the second quarter payment relief, even if they received a payment extension for the first quarter.

"We know employers are still impacted by the pandemic, and we want to continue to offer flexibility during these hard times," L&I Employer Services Program Manager Keith Bingham said.

Under state law, L&I is required to collect workers' compensation premiums from employers to pay benefits for workers who are injured on the job or develop work-related illnesses.

Read the [full press release](#) for more details.

Need a break? Remember to wash your hands

Is wearing a face covering getting a little warm? Take a safe break! Just make sure that you are outside and at least six feet from others. [#MaskUpWA](#) [#WearAMaskWA](#) [#inittogether](#)

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)



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 30, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:37 p.m.
Confirmed	5,029 (up 71 cases from 7/29)
Probable	624 (up 3 from 7/29)
Deaths	187

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:37 p.m.
Arlington	236 (147 recovered)
Bothell*	420 (260 recovered)
Brier	28 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	485 (370 recovered)
Everett	1,656 (1,143 recovered)
Gold Bar	8 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	38 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	251 (157 recovered)
Lynnwood	921 (684 recovered)
Marysville	477 (340 recovered)
Mill Creek	93 (57 recovered)
Monroe	198 (104 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	163 (125 recovered)
Mukilteo	95 (75 recovered)
Snohomish	320 (188 recovered)
Stanwood	158 (117 recovered)
Sultan	28 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	41 (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.