



Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management



Community Situation Report

2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

Dec. 21, 2020

Pandemic apathy now common for many

"We're exhausted from managing the ways this virus has influenced our daily lives," remarked Dr. Kira Mauseth, PhD and co-lead for the Dept. of Health's COVID-19 Behavioral Health Strike Team during a press conference last week. "Find small ways to engage with the things you do care about while practicing disease prevention guidelines. It's harder right now, but more important than ever," Mauseth said. If you need someone to talk to about stress due to COVID-19, call Washington Listens at **1-833-681-0211**. Someone is available to talk from Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. TTY and language access services are available. Mauseth together with psychiatrist Doug Dicharry, MD have developed "Coping with COVID" a podcast and blog with conversations about how COVID-19 pandemic impacts us—what we are feeling and what we can do about it.

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/mental-and-emotional-well-being>.

Practice kindness. . .

Sometimes offering help to others who are feeling lonely can make you feel less lonely yourself. Send a handwritten letter or card (how fun is it to get mail that's not junk?), drop off a care package at their home, post an encouraging message on a friend's social post, or send a quick text or instant message tell them why you think they are great.

Connect however possible. . .

Find non-traditional ways to connect with family, friends or others in your community—they are feeling isolated, too! Virtually reach out to others who you care about.

Find the meaning. . .

Consider what it is about this time of year you enjoy the most and if it involves other people, open up the conversation early with family and friends about how plans will look different this year. How will we change plans to keep everyone safe? How can we keep traditions alive but in a new way? Sometimes just talking about the situation openly can help you feel less alone.

<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1447/Mental-Health-Resources>

Safety measures must stay in place

Vaccines are crucial to beat the virus, but we must to continue to wear masks, social distance, maintain good hygiene and reduce the time we spend with people who don't live with us. The State Dept. of Health is reminding people of the need to practice current safety measures to prevent the spread of the COVID virus.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/2519/C-OVID-19-safety-behaviors-remain-necessary-even-as-vaccinations-begin>

From final BOCC Meeting of 2020

During the last Jefferson County Board of Commissioners meeting of the year, Dr. Locke responded to over 15 questions from community members related to the COVID-19 virus and vaccines. To see the recorded meeting, go to www.co.jefferson.wa.us and click on *Videos of Meetings* then choose *Recorded*. Dr. Locke stressed the need to use extreme caution around the Christmas holiday. During the Christmas holidays, the safest things to do remain limiting gatherings and avoid traveling—even to another county. The availability to get tested before you travel is limited, but improving.

Regarding the need to see a doctor for non-COVID related health issues, Dr. Locke said to let your physician know if you have symptoms or have traveled out of the area in the past two weeks. He also cautioned that emergency dental care should not be postponed. Locke also said that for at least the next six months—perhaps for all of 2021, we will need to continue to wear masks, social distance and maintain good hygiene practices.

Dr. Locke will be providing updated information that will be aired on KPTZ 91.9FM on Dec. 26 from 12-12:30PM followed by a podcast of the show at KPTZ.org.



Dr. Locke responds to vaccine question

Question: Who should NOT get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: The initial vaccines are licensed for ages 16 and older. After the vaccine is safely deployed in the adult population, safety trials will occur in younger age groups. There are no guarantees that the vaccine will work for those who have advanced immune system diseases or who are on immune suppressing medications. Live virus vaccines (like Measles, Mumps, and Rubella or Chicken pox) are not safe in populations who are immune suppressed. None of the COVID-19 vaccines in U.S. clinical trials are live virus vaccines although research is being done on such vaccines internationally. If clinical trials identify populations who cannot safely take the vaccine, this will be part of the licensure process. As we all know, there are people who are philosophically opposed to vaccination. Some believe that “natural immunity” is best. Others question the fundamental scientific argument supporting public vaccination campaigns. There are no plans for countrywide mandatory vaccination although it may be required for certain occupations or for attendance at schools, similar to current vaccine requirements. At present, we know that natural immunity to COVID-19 lasts somewhere between 3 months and 1 year but there is considerable uncertainty about how protective it is. COVID-19 vaccines are being designed to produce a more robust and long-lasting immunity. Initial trials suggested the messenger RNA vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna offer excellent short-term protection from COVID-19. How long that immunity lasts will only be known after more time has passed.

Inslee provides updated back-to-school plan

On Dec. 16, Gov. Inslee released updated metrics to help local leaders and school officials make decisions about in-person learning. Read the complete guidance plan and the Governor’s Proclamation here:

<https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-announces-updated-school-guidance-for-in-person-instruction-2df8b783e618>

Moderna vaccine authorized by Western States Workgroup

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup gave a unanimous recommendation to the Moderna vaccine on Sunday, Dec. 20. “Having two vaccines to combat COVID-19 will help us begin to recover from this destructive pandemic,” said Gov. Inslee. The first Moderna doses are expected to arrive in Washington sometime this week. Storage and handling of this vaccine is easier and should help get the vaccine to all areas of the state, according to a press release from the Governor’s office.

Updated Vaccine allocation numbers (12-17-2020)

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/NewsReleases/2020/20-253-COVIDVaccineAllocation-NewsRelease.pdf>

Vaccination phases could change

Yesterday, Dec. 20, the CDC’s advisory panel released new recommendations about groups they feel should be prioritized in the next two phases of the vaccine rollout. The CDC said that Phase 1B should include Americans 75 and older, frontline workers to include police, firefighters, teachers and grocery workers. Phase 1C should cover those aged 65-74, people 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions and other essential workers defined as “workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2.” This group includes first responders, corrections workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, those who work in education, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and those who work in manufacturing, food and agriculture. Phase 3 will include healthy adults without risk factors and children. Phase 4 will include all others not already included in the prior phases.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, go to <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine>.

Cases by Age

0-19	32
20-29	20
30-39	30
40-49	19
50-59	23
60-69	40
70-79	28
80+	15

Cases by Sex

Cases by Sex	N (%)
Female	105 (51%)
Male	102 (49%)

Cases by Location

Port Townsend	102
Mid-County	84
South County (Quilcene, Brinnon, West Jefferson)	21

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Jefferson County, WA

Total Positives (confirmed cases)	207
Negative	14,813
Percent Positive	1.38%
Test Results Pending	51
Total Tests Administered	15,071
Active Cases in Isolation	10
Total Patients Recovered*	159
Cases Ever Hospitalized	17
Deaths	1
Two Week COVID-19 Case Rate per 100,000 (Dec 6-Dec 19)**	59.56

Last results received 12/21/2020. We are working with Jefferson Healthcare and other labs to provide the test result data. *WA State DOH: people are considered recovered at 28 days from the onset of symptoms if they are alive and not hospitalized. This table will be updated Monday through Friday. **This rate will be updated every Monday. Last Updated: 12/21/2020 at 1:58 PM

Cases in Last 4 Weeks

Date of New Case(s)	No. of Cases Added	Location	Sex	Age
12/21/2020	3	Port Townsend	F, F, F	0-19, 0-19, 50-59
12/21/2020	2	Mid-County	F, M	30-39, 70-79
12/18/2020	2	Mid-County	F, M	60-69, 80+
12/17/2020	2	Mid-County	M, M	30-39, 40-49
12/15/2020	1	Mid-County	F	80+
12/15/2020	2	Port Townsend, South County	M, M	0-19, 30-39
12/14/2020	2	Port Townsend	M, M	0-19, 50-59