



# Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management



## Community Situation Report

### 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

**June 15, 2020**

#### Community members express concerns about wearing facemasks

Comments about wearing facemasks in the county were expressed by community members in letters sent to the Board of County Commissioners and read at the June 15 meeting.

Many who wrote letters believe there should be more signage at the entrance to businesses and banners displayed at particular locations to include near the ferry dock, and at the entrance to Port Townsend at Mill Street and Highway 20. Some felt there should be a compliance requirement and that people should be given a ticket if they are not wearing a mask.

As of June 8, Gov. Inslee required employers to provide their workers with masks and that the workers wear them unless they are working alone or when the job has no in-person interaction as stated in the Safe Start plan. Businesses violating this may lose their license or face consequences from the licensing agency; businesses open when they shouldn't be may get fined from L&I.

Locally, Dr. Locke has put out an order requiring masks at indoor, public spaces but it is a "soft requirement." On multiple occasions, he has emphasized the importance of the public doing their part to prevent further transmission of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing and wearing facemasks when out in public. There is no punishment associated with the county directive issued on May 28 requiring facial coverings.

"This is a long road we are on that could last for a year or longer," Locke said. "We have time to learn a different way of functioning in public. This is not a choice that only effects your welfare, but effects other people." It was suggested that when entering a business or a store and people inside are not wearing facemasks, you can leave. "While some people may have a medical reason why they aren't wearing a mask, we aren't asking people to be the mask police," Locke said.

#### Phase 3 Application moving forward

Dr. Locke told the commissioners that he is recommending Jefferson County apply to move to Gov. Inslee's Safe Start Phase 3 while there is significant risk. The first step in the process is a review of Locke's recommendation, which will go before the Board of Health at their June 18 meeting.

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

Total Positives (confirmed cases)	32
Negative	2323
Percent Positive	1.4%
Test Results Pending	49
Total Patients Tested	2404
Total Patients Recovered*	30
Deaths	0

Last results received 6/15/2020. We are working with Jefferson Healthcare and other labs to provide the test result data. There are cases reported from all areas of Jefferson County, East of the Olympics. \*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. Last Updated: 6/15/2020 at 1:56 p.m.

## Inslee issues proclamation on K-12 reopening

Gov. Jay Inslee today issued a proclamation outlining the state's plan to possibly re-open schools in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan follows the state's Safe Start phased approach to reopening on a county-by-county basis.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal addressed the media on June 11 to unveil the Reopening Washington Schools 2020 Planning Guide authorized under the proclamation. The proclamation can be found at:

[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20.09.2%20COVID19%20Phased%20Reopening%20of%20K12%20Schools.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20.09.2%20COVID19%20Phased%20Reopening%20of%20K12%20Schools.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Earlier this year, Inslee announced the statewide closure of all schools due to the developing COVID-19 pandemic. Those closures were later extended through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

"Today we are setting a path for moving forward with school activities in the summer and school reopening in the fall," Inslee said. "We have been working closely with Superintendent Reykdal and his staff at OSPI, state Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Industries and a wide range of stakeholders across the state to ensure the health of all students and educators.

"We all want students back in educational settings, but we must continue to monitor health data carefully, and proceed with caution. This virus is unpredictable and has upended our regular ways of doing everything. Therefore, if COVID cases spike or spread, we may need to reassess this plan. We cannot guarantee that school will open in fall. But for now, this guidance provides a path that schools, educators and families need to plan for the coming months and the fall. Kids need to be learning but they also need to be safe and healthy."

For the Olympic Peninsula, both Clallam and Jefferson County health officers have stated they want to see schools open in the fall.

## Recreational Shellfish Harvesting Now Open

As part of Safe Start-Washington's Phased Reopening plan, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) opened recreational shellfish harvesting on June 8, 2020, for most beaches. Beaches are being monitored for shellfish biotoxins and recreationalists are reminded to check the Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) [Shellfish Safety Map](#) for updated information.

Jefferson County Public Health has posted shellfish signs throughout the county to reflect current shellfish safety warnings and closures. Discovery Bay is closed to all species due to Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning. Hood Canal has a Vibrio Warning to cook all shellfish.

Every summer, DOH issues a Recreational Shellfish Harvest Advisory for Hood Canal. This is due to the presence of vibrio bacteria in shellfish, which causes the intestinal disease vibriosis. The advisory instructs harvesters that all shellfish recreationally harvested from May through September should be cooked thoroughly to avoid illness.

**Check the clickable map at [www.doh.wa.gov/ShellfishSafety.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ShellfishSafety.htm) or call the Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632 before harvesting shellfish anywhere in Washington State. For the latest information on regulations and seasons, go to the WDFW website at [wdfw.wa.gov/fishing](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing) or call the Shellfish Rule Change Hotline 1-866-880-5431.**

Jefferson County is now in Phase 2 of the Governor's Safe Start Reopening Plan. This phase allows for outdoor recreation involving 5 or fewer people outside your household, and travel within the proximity of your home to participate in these activities. On May 28, 2020, Dr. Tom Locke, Jefferson County Public Health Officer, issued a directive that all individuals must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when they will be at outdoor public locations and cannot maintain distancing of approximately six feet from another individual who does not share their household. Wearing cloth face coverings does not mitigate the necessity for maintaining social distances whenever possible.