



Mason County COVID-19 Response

Daily Information Release

Area Commander Ryan Spurling,
Emergency Manager for Mason County
"Stay Home, Limit Travel, Save Lives"

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COVID-19 KNOWN AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:

Mason County has twenty-one (21) confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the time of this release.

Positive cases are located throughout Mason County. Assume everyone, including yourself (with or without symptoms) could have COVID-19 and act accordingly.

BUSINESS/NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE:

Shelton-Mason Chamber of Commerce:

- Beginning on Sunday, April 19, newly eligible applicants can apply for Unemployment Benefits. This includes self-employed, independent contractors, those with less than 680 hours and more. If you have been denied in the past few weeks or given a \$0 weekly benefit, then review these steps:
- Before accessing the system:
 - **Review Eligibility Checklist**
<https://esdorchardstorage.blob.core.windows.net/esdwa/Default/ESDWAGOV/Unemployment/UIEligibilityChecker.pdf>
 - **Complete Application Checklist**
<https://esdorchardstorage.blob.core.windows.net/esdwa/Default/ESDWAGOV/Unemployment/COVID-19 Applications CheckList.pdf>
 - **Create a Secure Access Washington account** <https://dor.wa.gov/manage-business/my-dor-help/get-started#SAW>
 - **Instructions from Insurance Commissioner Suzi Levine** (begins at 19-minute mark)
<https://www.facebook.com/WaStateGov/videos/2536469403283894/>
- After Sunday:
 - How to Apply for Benefits <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/applying-for-benefits-video>
 - How to file your weekly claim <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/weekly-claim-video>

North Mason Chamber of Commerce:

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Save Small Business Fund. The grants are \$5,000 and can be used to make payroll, pay rent or overall business operations.
- **Applications go live on April 20.** [Apply here.](#) Visit www.savesmallbusiness.com for more details, and to get an email reminder when the application launches.
- To qualify, a business must:

- Employ between 3 and 20 people
 - Be in an economically vulnerable community. Determined by Zip Code.
 - Have been harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic
- The grants will be distributed on a weekly, rolling basis until all funds have been allocated.

Mason County Economic Development Council:

- As of approximately Thursday at 10 a.m. ET, the SBA is currently unable to accept new applications for the **Paycheck Protection Program** based on available appropriations funding. This info is on the [PPP page of the SBA website](#). We are working with our congressional representatives on additional funding for this program.
- SBA is unable to accept new applications at this time for **the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)-COVID-19** related assistance program (including EIDL Advances) based on available appropriations funding. Applicants who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. This info is on the [Disaster Loans Applications page of the SBA website](#).
- It's important to note that through work with its partners, the SBA has processed **more than 14 years' worth of loans in less than 14 days**. The Paycheck Protection Program is saving millions of jobs and helping America's small businesses make it through this challenging time. The EIDL program is also providing much-needed relief to sustain businesses and their employees.
- For now, we're connecting local businesses to the following resources:
 - **Funding:** [SBA 7\(a\), 504 and microloans](#), on which we are offering [Debt Relief](#); or, [SBA Express Bridge Loans](#).
 - **Advising:** The [SBA Resource Partner Network](#) for business resiliency readiness advising and training.
 - **Tax Relief:** [IRS information](#) about tax relief for businesses
- Our Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant (WWSBEG) was opened on April 7th and has closed on the 14th. We have been processing and validating hundreds of applications. Once complete, these will be sent to Commerce for the final selection and we are hopeful that we'll be able to distribute funding to the businesses by the end of the month. The state is also looking at additional funding for this program and we are hopeful that we will be able to open this process again.
- Mason County approved a grant program using emergency funding and re-allocating current funds received from the Washington State Community Development Block Grant. Details around that should be coming out starting end of next week.

WHERE DO I FIND INFORMATION?

For more information visit:

- Mason County's website <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/COVID-19/index.php>
- WA State Department of Health's website www.doh.wa.gov
- CDC's website www.cdc.gov
- Mason County Public Health Information line 360-427-9670 ext. 599
- The Mason County Links page has been updated with more helpful links.
- State Coronavirus Website: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>