



Mason County COVID-19 Response

Daily Information Release

Area Commander Ross McDowell,
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-five (25) confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the time of this release.
We have had one COVID-19 related death from Mason County.

DISCREPANCY IN NUMBERS: Washington State Department of Health is currently showing a discrepancy of an additional case in Mason County. Mason County Public Health is actively investigating the last case to confirm if it is a Mason County resident.

GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE:

Friday, May 1, 2020, Governor Inslee announced an extension of the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order as well as a four-phased approach to reopening Washington State. The four-phased approach is as follows:

- Phase 1 begins May 5th with the reopening of some recreational activities, including day use at state parks, playing golf, fishing, and hunting.
- Phase 2 will allow small gatherings of five or fewer people, new construction, and reopening of barber shops, salons, and pet care services.
- Phase 3 will allow gatherings of up to 50 people, including sports activities, and non-essential travel can resume.
- Phase 4 will involve resuming the majority of public interactions. Gatherings of more than 50 people will be allowed, but, until a vaccine is available, we will still need to stay at least six feet away from other people.

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/PhasedReopeningChart.pdf>

In order for Washington to move from one phase to another we must:

- Health care: Make sure the health care system is able to handle another surge of patients in case the virus again spreads rapidly through the population.
- Testing: Increase the number of people who are tested for COVID-19.
- Contact investigations: We need to be able to reach everyone who comes in contact with someone with COVID-19 to make sure they are tested and isolated.
- Protect high-risk populations: High-risk populations include essential workers, people in long term care facilities, and people over age 65 and with underlying chronic illnesses.

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard>

There are also differences among counties in Washington such as:

- **Some counties could have fewer restrictions.** Very small counties with low to no COVID-19 activity will be able to apply for a waiver from some of the restrictions.
- **Some counties could have more strict restriction** Cities and jurisdictions can take more strict actions than what the state is mandating. That is up to them based on their public health needs and local decision making.

Remember, if you live in a county that is in Phase 1, all non-essential travel is restricted for you. This means you are not supposed to travel to a county with fewer restrictions to get your hair cut or take advantage of other services opening. Even if you feel healthy, traveling from a part of the state that is more populated and has more disease circulating means you risk bringing the virus with you.

For more information, visit Washington State Department of Health's website or you can visit Governor Inslee's website.

- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- <https://www.governor.wa.gov/>

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
- State Coronavirus Website: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>
- Governor Inslee's Proclamations: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations>