



Mason County COVID-19 Response Information Release

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“Mason Strong, Mason United!”

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COVID-19 KNOWN AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:

Mason County has seventy-nine (79) total confirmed cases of COVID-19, nineteen (19) cases are active, with one (1) COVID-19 related death from Mason County at the time of this

GOVERNOR’S ANNOUNCED UPDATE (7/16/2020):

Governor Inslee yesterday announced steps to address COVID-19 spread. These steps include smaller gathering size limits and ban on live entertainment statewide. Effective Monday, July 20th, new Safe Start phase limits as followed. The number of individuals allowed in social gatherings during Phase 3 will be reduced from 50 people to 10 people. Counties in Phase 2 may continue to have social gatherings of up to five people.

(<https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-announces-steps-to-address-covid-19-spread-7bf1dbabb52f>)

Mason County is **in phase three** of the Safe Start reopening process. An interactive map is available to help visualize what counties are in what phase of recovery throughout Washington State: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-county-variance-application-process>

IN NEED A FACE COVERING? “ASK A COP”:

All officers in Mason County have access to state supplied face coverings. If you are in need of a covering, please “ask a Cop”. Additionally, United Way of Mason County and your local food bank have access to face covering resources. For help finding a resource near you, contact United Way at (360) 426-4999.

STATEMENT FROM MASON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH:

We are entering a new season of COVID-19. Until recently, cases could be traced to direct contact with positive cases from outside Mason County. During the stay-at-home order, cases had limited **close contacts (being within 6 ft of others for greater than 15 minutes without a mask)**, which slowed the transmission and made it easier for us to trace contacts.

As our community re-opened, the number of close contacts for positive cases has increased dramatically and this virus is now in community-spread. While we have initially provided a greater level of detail in the source of new case information, contact tracing and investigations has become more complex. Going forward, release of new cases will be less detailed. We can continue to slow the spread of this virus by following the Phase 3 guidance of gathering with no more than 10 people outside your household per week.

Remember,

- If you are sick, please stay home.

- If you believe you have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case, please self-quarantine at home.
- If you believe that you have symptoms of the virus, please isolate yourself from everyone else, contact your healthcare provider, and get tested. Call the Mason General Hospital Respiratory Triage Line at 360-427-3615 to speak with a nurse.
- The most common symptoms presented in recent cases are high fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste and/or smell, sinus issues, headache, nausea without vomiting, and stomach issues.

MASON HEALTH:

Mason Health now allows 1 visitor per patients at Mason General Hospital and the clinics, with limited exceptions for end-of-life patients and Birth Center. Visiting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., M-F; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat-Sun. Please use Emergency Department entrance on weekends. Patient Accounts/Billing and Health Information Management/Medical Records offices are now open to the public during business hours. Visit www.masongeneral.com for more 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
- State Coronavirus Website: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>