

# COVID-19 Resource Guide

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# KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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## General Information

COVID-19 is a new virus strain spreading from person-to-person. Health experts are concerned because this new virus has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people — especially people over age 60 or who have weakened immune systems.

[FAQs](#) | [DOH](#) | [Infographics](#)

Health experts are still learning more about the spread. Currently it is thought to spread:

- through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- by touching a surface or object with the virus and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

They may also have COVID-19 if they have at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain

- 
- Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell

**Translations:** [Amharic](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Filipino/Tagalog](#) | [French](#) | [Hindi](#) | [Hmong](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Khmer](#) | [Korean](#) | [Lao](#) | [Marshallese](#) | [Oromo](#) | [Persian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Thai](#) | [Tigrinya](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

**American Sign Language:** [Educational Videos](#) about COVID-19 in American Sign Language.

## King County COVID-19 Data Dashboards



## Testing for COVID-19

Public Health urges anyone with any of the following symptoms to contact a health care provider or testing site right away: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Furthermore, if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should also be tested. For anyone facing any barriers to getting tested, Public Health – Seattle & King County is working with local partners to open additional free COVID-19 testing sites in King County. **Don't wait to test if you have symptoms:** Early in the crisis, COVID-19 testing was limited. COVID-19 testing is now widely available in King County and Public Health's testing guidance has changed accordingly, in alignment with Washington state Department of Health.

[DOH FAQs](#)

**DOH Translations:** [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Indonesian](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Thai](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

## Free COVID-19 Testing

Additional free COVID-19 testing sites are opening in Seattle and other local cities. Public Health – Seattle & King County urges anyone with mild COVID-19 symptoms or who has been in close contact with someone ill with COVID-19 to contact a healthcare provider to discuss testing.

### *King County Testing Sites*

There are several [no-cost testing sites](#) in King County that are open to anyone who cannot access COVID-19 testing through their regular health care provider. Most of these sites are nonprofit community health centers. More than 15 sites will be open by the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>, including new sites in Auburn and Seattle. [Public Health FAQ](#)

List of Testing Sites: [English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Khmer](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Filipino](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

### *Seattle Testing Sites*

Public Health is supporting the City of Seattle and the University of Washington to launch two new free drive-through COVID-19 testing sites. The facilities are located in north and south Seattle and will operate Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and accommodate drive-through clients who [book ahead through the website](#). Tests will be administered by the Seattle Fire Department.

### *Sea Mar Federal Way Medical Clinic*

Free COVID-19 testing is now offered weekly at Sea Mar Community Health Centers, including Sea Mar Federal Way Medical Clinic. The health clinics are hosting free scheduled drive-thru and walk-up appointments for testing every Tuesday from noon-4 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., beginning May 19. Testing is free for all family members and health insurance is not required. Those looking to get a test must first call the Sea Mar Federal Way Medical Clinic at 253-681-6600. Appointments for COVID-19 testing will be scheduled after an evaluation is done with a Sea Mar provider over the phone.



### *First Responders, Healthcare Workers, City/County Employee*

If you are a first responder, healthcare worker, or city or county employee working an emergency support function and are currently experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and cannot access testing through your health care provider or occupational health, please fill out this [online form](#) for assistance. We will try to respond within 24 hours.

### *People Experiencing Homelessness*

For more information about COVID-19 testing for people experiencing homelessness, please check this [form](#).

## **Federal Testing Supplies**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a [statement](#) in response to the news that the federal government will be invoking the Defense Production Act in order to increase available testing supplies for states. Washington will receive more than 500,000 swabs each month as part of this new federal effort.

## **SCAN: New Testing Program to Better Understand COVID-19 Outbreak**

Public Health – Seattle and King County has partnered with the Seattle Flu Study to launch a home testing program called Seattle Coronavirus Assessment Network (SCAN). On June 10<sup>th</sup>, SCAN will resume testing of home-based, self-collected samples for COVID-19 and return of results. See the full statement from the SCAN team [here](#).

## **Antibody Testing**

A new type of test called [serology \(antibody\) tests](#), measures antibodies to the SARS-CoV2 virus (which causes COVID-19). It is becoming available, but there are important limitations. "It's important to understand that there is no reliable way at this time to know if someone is protected based on results of an antibody test, and any product that provides an 'immunity certificate' or other statement indicating protection based on the test result is unlawful and should be reported to the [FDA](#) and the [Washington State Office of the Attorney General](#)."

## Isolation & Quarantine

The purpose of this set of actions is to provide safe I/Q locations for County residents who cannot safely I/Q in their home, either because they do not have one or because they share their home with a vulnerable person.

### Local Health Officer Quarantine Directive and Isolation Order

Effective as of March 28, 2020

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and have a test result pending may place other vulnerable members of the public at risk. To protect the health of our community and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Local Health Officer issued the following:

#### *Quarantine Directive*

Everyone with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing) who has a **test result pending shall stay in a quarantine location** (your home if you have one or in a government directed or publicly provided location if one is available) in accordance with CDC and Public Health guidance.

#### *Isolation Order*

- **All individuals who tested positive for COVID-19** shall enter and remain in isolation. Do not leave your home or recovery facility, except to receive medical care.
- **For individuals with symptoms**, discontinue isolation only under the following conditions:
  - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND,
  - At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- **For individuals who tested positive but have not had any symptoms**, discontinue isolation when at least 7 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, and there has been no subsequent illness.

#### *Compliance*

All individuals are strongly urged to voluntarily comply with this directive and order without delay. **Individuals who fail to comply may be subject to involuntary detention** pursuant to public health authority under [RCW 70.05.070 \(2\)-\(3\)](#) and WAC [246-100-036 \(3\)](#). [See the complete order for additional details](#), including conditions of quarantine and isolation.

#### *Actions*

A team of Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC), Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Facilities Management Division (FMD), and METRO employees is working together alongside our colleagues from the City of Seattle and our network of partner providers. This team is operating seven days per week to create a new network of facilities and services to slow the spread of COVID-19. Nearly every new facility, team, or system described in this [document](#) did not exist four weeks ago.

## Isolation/Quarantine Sites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICvmqmnQh5Q>

- **Kent Motel** (former Econo Lodge) | 15 rooms initially; total capacity 79  
1233 Central Avenue North, Kent | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mleu9H6b-Ds>
- **North Seattle/Aurora** | Six modular units; total capacity 23  
1132 N. 128th Street, Seattle | [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmTr\\_syU\\_rg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmTr_syU_rg)
- **Issaquah Hotel** (leased former Holiday Inn) | total capacity 99  
1801 12th Avenue NW, Issaquah

## Assessment Center/Recovery Center (AC/RC)

A large, congregate care facility designed to provide Public Health-supervised care to symptomatic or COVID positive adults who are not able to follow public health guidance for isolation, quarantine, or recovery in their own home, or because they do not have a home. AC/RC facilities can serve as flex space for hospitals, making it possible to discharge non-serious COVID cases to the AC/RC, freeing hospital beds for the most acute cases. Due to staffing and material constraints, King County is looking to establish several large sites throughout the County rather than many smaller sites.

The purpose of this set of actions is to provide “surge” capacity for hospital diversion during the projected peak of an outbreak. This emergency strategy will provide congregate settings for larger groups of people to be assessed for COVID-19 and to receive nurse-level Public Health supervision for people who do not need—or who no longer need—hospital-level care.

King County has identified the following sites for AC/RC assistance (others may be added):

- Shoreline: 19030 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Shoreline (140-150)
- Eastgate: 13620 Eastgate Way, Bellevue (140-150)
- Interbay: 601 Elliott Avenue West, Seattle (72)
- SoDo: 1039 Sixth Ave. S., Seattle (240 spaces)

This [video](#) highlights an example of how local companies are stepping up to support County residents who will recover at AC/RC sites.

## Isolation and Quarantine FAQs

### What is isolation?

Isolation is used for people who are currently ill and able to spread the disease and who need to stay away from others in order to avoid infecting them.

### What is quarantine?

Quarantine is for people who are not currently showing symptoms, but are at increased risk for having been exposed to an infectious disease. Quarantine is for people who could become sick and spread the infection to others.

### Why is quarantine used?

Quarantine is put into place to prevent the possible spread of an infectious disease from someone who may have been exposed to the disease but is not yet sick. When people are quarantined, they are kept separate from others until they are out of the period when they could

get sick. During that time, health officials track their health so that if they do develop symptoms, they can get them to a healthcare provider quickly for evaluation, testing if needed, and care.

#### **How does self-quarantine work?**

When people are in self-quarantine, they have no symptoms, but because there is a possibility that they might have been exposed, they stay away from others in public settings. For 14 days from their last possible exposure, people in self-quarantine cannot go to work, school, or any public places where they could have close contact with others. Public health departments direct them in how to monitor their health so that should they develop symptoms, they can be quickly and safely isolated from all others, including those in their household.

#### **Can people in self-quarantine still have contact with their household members?**

Yes, people in self-quarantine are not sick and can still have contact with their household members. Should they develop any symptoms, they are asked to quickly and safely isolate from all others, including those in their household, and to contact their medical provider.

#### **Who is likely to be temporarily housed in Isolation and Quarantine sites?**

Examples of people who may occupy the facilities:

- First responders and health care workers
- Travelers
- People who can't safely self-isolate or quarantine at home, e.g., a student living in a congregate dorm room
- People experiencing homelessness

#### **Why do we need this action?**

It is critical to do all that we can to 1) reduce the spread of the illness; and 2) keep our hospital beds available for people with acute healthcare needs. Public Health has been clear that isolation and quarantine help keep the community safe by containing illness.

#### **Can people bring their pets to the Isolation and Quarantine facilities?**

No, but King County has made arrangements to board any pets at the Regional Animal Services of King County for the duration of a person's stay in isolation and quarantine.

#### **How will we decide who stays in these facilities?**

Public Health-Seattle & King County will triage calls to the King County COVID Call Center and assess individual need for isolation or quarantine. They will make a determination of the need for self-isolation at home or assignment to a facility. A referral will be made by PHSKC.

#### **How will they get there?**

Transportation to and from will be provided by the most appropriate source, including ambulances or other contracted transportation providers.

#### **How will you monitor the health of those in the facilities?**

Isolation and quarantine is a proven Public Health practice, giving people a place where they can go to wait out their exposure and keep their family members safe. In most cases, isolation and quarantine monitoring is handled via regular telephone contact. Trained health and, where

appropriate, behavioral health professionals will speak regularly with each person in I&Q and monitor any changes in health status and any need for additional care.

**Will there be onsite medical assistance?**

In most cases, health and behavioral health care will be closely monitored by phone. As the situation in our community changes, it may be necessary to make changes in our response, including the possibility of adding an onsite medical or behavioral health component.

**Will there be onsite security?**

Yes, there will be 24/7 onsite security at all locations and an on-site manager.

**How will people get their other needs met - food, water and other supplies?**

Staff will check in with every patient multiple times per day to identify any needs, including food, water, or other requests. Supplies will be delivered to their door. There will be no person-to-person contact between patients and delivery persons.

**Who will provide the food?**

King County is contracting with FareStart and possibly other food delivery outlets. Dietary restrictions, allergies and cultural needs will be addressed through the food options.

**Will the individuals be allowed to leave the premises?**

Isolation and quarantine means that you stay away from the general public. Every person will have a phone number they can call if they need anything, or if their condition changes. In addition, staff will check in with every patient multiple times per day to identify any needs. Supplies will be delivered to their door. They will have no need to go out to get anything.

**Who decides when they get to leave? Will they have transportation upon departure?**

Medical staff will monitor each person's condition and make an individual determination as to when it is safe for the individual to leave the isolation and quarantine site. They will receive transportation to return to their home or shelter when they have been cleared to leave by PHSKC staff.

**Why were communities not consulted in advance of siting?**

Executive Constantine signed a proclamation of emergency, enabling the County to take swift measure to find locations that could house people in isolation and recovery, to maintain the effectiveness of our overall health system. In an emergency, swift action is key. The County's real estate people identified and moved on properties that met the requirements of Public Health. We are communicating with communities in Kent, White Center, and Seattle, the first locations announced. We are meeting with community-based organizations, local businesses, and residents to explain the unfolding situation and to gather their questions and respond. The Executive Office and the Department of Local Services have been leading this work. We are absolutely committed to ongoing communications with our communities and our residents.

King County is in negotiations on additional properties throughout the region. This is a countywide emergency. It is not contained to one city or neighborhood, but is an emergency for our entire region. Subsequent announcements from the City of Seattle and King County have

identified additional sites on land owned by the city or county. King County is continuing to explore additional sites countywide.

#### **How will you get information to people who speak languages other than English?**

The Public Health website has information available in multiple languages on the COVID-19 outbreak, including what to do if you suspect you have been exposed to the illness or are experiencing symptoms. The King County emergency appropriations ordinance includes funding for language access services, community engagement and outreach/education pertaining to the COVID-19 response.

#### **What is the future use of these locations?**

We are focused on the public health emergency and creating spaces for people to safely isolate and quarantine. Future use of any of the emergency community services locations being created now is a conversation for a future time.

#### **How does community connect to ask questions about sites?**

If there are questions that are not included in this FAQ sheet, please contact our 'contact us' via the dedicated subcategory on this issue at <https://blue.kingcounty.gov/about/contact/>.

## **Shelters**

### **King County Reduces Shelter Concentrations**

April 2, 2020

King County continues to reduce shelter concentrations by moving nearly 400 people to hotels. This is another in a series of actions King County is taking to “de-intensify” the concentration of people in shelters. This action also will allow locations to stay open 24/7, and meals will be provided. Onsite services and oversight will be provided by the shelter operators. These are not isolation and quarantine facilities. The people who are moving are presumed to be well.

The purpose of this set of actions is to support existing institutions to implement Public Health guidance to prevent transmission of COVID-19. This strategy focuses on preventing people from contracting COVID-19 in the first place.

The transition to the hotel sites will happen early next week and the hotels will not be open to other guests during this time:

- **The Sophia Way** is moving 100 people from a shelter site in Bellevue to a hotel in Bellevue, at 625 116th Avenue NE.
- **Catholic Community Services** is moving 90 people from shelter sites in Kent, Federal Way and Renton to a SeaTac hotel, at 2900 S. 192nd Street. It is also moving approximately 40 people from the King County Airport shelter to the Inn at Queen Anne.
- **Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC)** is moving 200 people from its Seattle shelters to a hotel in Renton, at 1 South Grady Way.
- **The Salvation Army** is moving about 60 people from the King County Administration Building and the King County 4<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Building Shelter to the Civic Hotel.

## Shelter “De-intensification”

Seattle and King County are creating space for shelter “de-intensification” that allows shelters to maintain the minimum six-foot distance between residents that Public Health recommends.

- **King County Administration Building** and **King County 4th and Jefferson Building** have additional space to help both onsite shelters achieve social distancing.
- **King County International Airport** has a dedicated space to offer to one of the county’s largest shelter operators to spread out their clients to achieve social distancing.
- As a preventative strategy, King County provided funding for **60 hotel vouchers** for people in the largest shelters who are in the highest risk categories for age and underlying health issues.
- King County is working with the **City of Bellevue** to support one of the largest Eastside shelter operators to spread out concentrations of shelter guests to achieve social distancing with additional space and placement of pallet units.
- The City of Seattle opened the **Seattle Center Exhibition Hall** to move about 150 individuals from another of the largest Seattle shelter operators to have space between beds, and is implementing additional de-intensification steps in shelters city-wide.

**Video describing select activities in this strategy:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4i5tMICF-rU>

**Schedule of webinars, recordings of past webinars, and COVID-19 guidance for institutions:**

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/locations/homeless-health/healthcare-for-thehomeless/covid.aspx>

# GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY ACTIONS

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## Federal emergency actions and guidance

The federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 page](#) is an excellent source of information and guidance about federal actions and guidance for travelers, employers, schools and community and faith-based organizations.

## State emergency actions

Gov. Jay Inslee has announced a series of emergency actions to stop the spread of coronavirus including statewide school closures, restrictions on large gatherings, and new rules to protect residents of nursing homes and adult family care centers. Learn more about current social distancing measures stating [what's open or closed](#), read the [state emergency actions](#) or [view the recent and upcoming press conferences](#).

## Local emergency actions

Local jurisdictions may choose to impose additional actions or guidance to their communities. You can locate information from your local health departments through the state [Department of Health's local district directory](#).

## Enforcement

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee, outlined three tiers of response to complaints of suspected violation of the order.

- The first tier is to educate the suspected violator about how to comply with the order.
- For those who don't comply at that point, the state could issue citations or suspend permits, including revocation of business licenses.
- At the third tier, for continued violators, cases could be referred to the Attorney General for either civil or criminal charges.

People who suspect a business is violating the order can visit the state's coronavirus site to [report online](#) or can contact local law enforcement through non-emergency numbers. Inslee and other officials stressed that people should not call 911 to report such violations.

**In King County**, violating a Local Health Order is a misdemeanor. Violators of the Governor's Proclamations may be subject to criminal penalties. King County will not be actively searching for violations, our focus is on helping people understand the importance social distancing, rather than citations. If you have specific questions or reports related to this Guidance, please email [coronavirus@kingcounty.gov](mailto:coronavirus@kingcounty.gov).



## Governor Ends “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order

Updated on May 29, 2020

Gov. Jay Inslee announced that the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He is issuing a new proclamation that shifts the state to Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening, a county-by-county approach that provides more flexibility for counties that don’t meet the criteria to fully move to the next phase. King County, for instance, may not meet existing criteria to move to the next phase, but under the new guidelines if it meets enough of the target data, we could apply for a partial move to the next phase.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Inslee issued the **Stay Home, Stay Healthy** order, which requires everyone in the state to stay home. The proclamation states it’s still safe for people to go outside as long as they remain at least six feet from each other. Grocery stores, doctor’s offices and other essential businesses will remain open. People can still participate in activities such as bike rides, gardening, and dog walking — as long as they follow social distancing rules.

To clarify status, or to petition to be added to the list of essential businesses, please email: [business@mil.wa.gov](mailto:business@mil.wa.gov)

**Translations:** [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

## Contact Tracing

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the launch of a statewide [contact tracing plan](#) that will allow more businesses to open and more people to be active in public while helping to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



## Guidelines for Opening up America Again

Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening including specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The plan, exclamation points and all, can be found here: [Guidelines for Opening up America Again!](#) This marks all levels of government starting to coalesce around a stepwise re-emergence strategy centered on sound public health guidance.

## COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard

The State has put together a [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#). The dashboard provides a high-level overview of the main data points discussed among state leaders and the level of risk experts perceive around the current numbers and situation. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all COVID-19 related data. However, the dashboard does give us more details on the metrics discussed by Governor Inslee that will be used to determine readiness to proceed safely through a phased reopening.

## Safe Start Approach

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee issued his [Safe Start Washington: A Phased Approach to Recovery](#) proclamation. He gave details on the county-by-county approach allowing for flexibility and local control to address COVID-19 activity geographically. Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, counties may apply to John Wiesman, Secretary of Washington State Department of Health, to advance phases. Applications will be evaluated by a county's ability to meet target metrics and will be considered holistically in their readiness and ability to respond.

## County Variance Plan

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced [new criteria](#) for additional counties to apply for variances to move to Phase 2 of the state's Safe Start recovery plan. Under the plan, smaller counties can [apply for a variance](#) from the order which would allow them to open even more businesses than allowed statewide. Counties are now eligible to apply if they have less than 10 new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day span.

## Advisory Groups

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced three new advisory groups that will focus on certain areas as the state moves to reopen in phases from the closures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available [here](#).

- Public Health and Health Care Systems (DOH)
- Safe Work and Economic Recovery (DOC)
- Social Supports (DSHS)

## Essential Business Guidance

Many parts of the economy are already allowed to operate safely as essential businesses. For a list of essential businesses click [here](#).

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Additional Agricultural Guidance](#)
- [Automotive, Energy, Food and Agriculture, Healthcare/Public Health, In-Home Care, Maintenance, Recreation, Real Estate, and Retail Guidance](#)
- [Construction Guidance](#)
- [Commercial driver license guidelines](#)
- [Elective Surgeries Guidance](#)
- [Funeral Guidance](#)
- [Outdoor Guidance](#)
- [Real Estate and Mortgage Guidance](#)
- [List of approved essential workforce education programs](#)
- [Essential workforce education program standards](#)

## Phase 1

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, [Phase 1](#) begins and builds upon reopening some construction activity and outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, playing golf, and some park access. Click on the items below to see Gov. Inslee's guidelines on each of the following:

- [Additional Guidance on Voluntary Contact Information](#)
- [Car Washes](#)
- [Construction](#)
- [Additional Construction Guidance](#)
- [Curbside Retail](#)
- [Higher Education](#)
- [Landscape Services and Outdoor Maintenance Industry](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation Additional Guidance](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation- Golf](#)
- [Pet Walking Industry](#)
- [Religious and Faith-based Organization](#)
- [Spiritual Drive-in Services](#)
- [Vehicle and Vessel Sales](#)
- [Washington Talking Book and Braille Library](#)
- [Weddings, Funeral and Memorial Service](#)

## Phase 2

For counties with a population of less than 75,000 that have not had a new case of COVID-19 in the past three weeks can apply for a variance to move to Phase 2 of “Safe Start” before other parts of the state. County variance applications will be approved or denied by the secretary of the Department of Health.

- [Additional Guidance on Voluntary Contact Information](#)
- [Card Rooms](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Construction](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Curbside Library Services](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Dine-in restaurants and taverns](#) | [Memo](#) - [Voluntary Customer Log](#) | [Memo](#) | [Template](#)
- [Drive-in Theater Guidance](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Fitness and Training](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Higher Education & Workforce Training Requirements](#)
- [In-store Retail Operations](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Manufacturing Facility](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation Additional Guidance](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation- Golf](#)
- [Personal Services](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Pet Grooming](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Professional Photography](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Professional Services](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Real Estate](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Religious and Faith Organizations](#)
- [Sporting Activities](#)
- [Weddings, Funeral and Memorial Service](#)

## Phase 3

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee released a [template for businesses](#) in Phase 3 of the Washington Safe Start plan. Each business or entity operating in Phase 3 must develop a written safety plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A business may fill out this template to fulfill the requirement or may develop its own safety plan.

- [Professional Sports & Other Sporting Activities](#) | [Memo](#)
- [Religious and Faith-Based Services Additional Guidance](#)
- [Weddings, Funeral and Memorial Service](#)

## King County Moves to Phase 2

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, King County entered Phase 2 of the Safe Start plan. Effective immediately, salons and barbershops can increase capacity, and retail stores, restaurants & bars can reopen with limited capacity. For inquiries, please contact the Business & Community Compliance line at 206-296-1608.

A full list of permitted activities and limitations can be found at [Safe Start King County | Spanish](#).

## King County Council Approves Third Round of Emergency Funding

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the King County Council has approved a third round of emergency funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. \$86.2 million in funding has been provided for a variety of programs, headlined by a \$27.2 million appropriation for food security, rental assistance, & homeless services. You can find out more [here](#).

## King County Donation Website

The [King County Regional Donations Connector](#) is now available online to link up individuals, businesses, non-profits, and others who have resources with those who need them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Office of Equity and Social Justice

### Resource Guide

The King County Office of Equity and Social Justice has expanded their [resource guide](#), highlighting financial resources for individuals, families, and small businesses.

Also available in 10 languages.

[Amharic](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Oromo](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tigrinya](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

### Equity Impact Awareness Tool

There are 3 primary factors that can identify communities whose health is especially vulnerable to an economic crisis during COVID 19 response. This [tool](#) can be used as a reference for understanding these factors as they present in the data.

## King County Project CARE

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, King County launched the [Project C.A.R.E. website](#) (C.A.R.E stands for COVID-19 ACTION and RESPONSE ENLISTMENT). It is a comprehensive website that centralizes donations and volunteer opportunities to encourage people to give back to their community, and help connect would-be volunteers with the organizations where their help is most needed.

## Stand Together, Stay Apart

Public Health – Seattle and King County has released some new public service announcements about COVID-19. The PSA videos are now available in [21 languages](#).

## Facial Coverings Mandatory Statewide

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Jay Inslee has announced a statewide mandate requiring facial coverings when in public effective June 26<sup>th</sup>. Cases have been on the rise in Washington and wearing masks will save lives. The statewide order does include exemptions for children under 5 and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. More information is available at the Governor's [Medium page](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gov. Inslee announced a statewide requirement for businesses to require face coverings of all employees and customers beginning July 7<sup>th</sup>. Under this proclamation, businesses may not serve any customer, services or goods, if they do not comply with the [state-wide face covering order](#). The decision comes as counties across the state, including King County, have seen COVID-19 infections on the rise in the last month as more people interact with each other.

## King County Face Covering Directive

Governor Inslee has issued a statewide order requiring individuals to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces such as stores, offices and restaurants. The order also requires face coverings outdoors when you can't stay 6 feet apart from others. It will go into effect on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

[Amharic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#)  
[For Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Blind Community Members](#)

A face covering is not needed when you are outside walking, exercising, or otherwise outdoors if you are able to regularly stay 6 feet away from other people who do not live with you.

Wear fabric face coverings, such as cloth face masks, scarves, and bandanas. The face covering must fit over your nose and mouth. It is important to save medical-grade surgical masks and N95 respirators for healthcare workers and people who have special health needs. [Instructions on making cloth masks](#).

### To protect yourself, wear face coverings properly.

- Your mask should cover your nose and mouth at all times.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before you put on a face covering and after removing it.
- Change your face covering when it gets moist.
- Wash your face covering after each use.

### Some people do not need to follow this directive, including:

- Children ages 2 years and younger. Babies and toddlers under age two should never wear cloth face coverings.
- Children ages 3-5 are encouraged to wear a face covering when possible.
- Anyone with a disability that makes it hard for them to wear or remove a face covering.
- Anyone who is deaf and moves their face and mouth to communicate.
- Anyone who has been advised by a medical professional to not wear a face covering because of personal health issues.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or unable to remove the face covering without help.



**Wear a face covering and keep 6 feet apart from others in public spaces.**

**REMEMBER:** Staying home is still the safest way to prevent spreading COVID-19. When out, wear your face covering, stay 6 feet apart from others, wash your hands frequently, and stay local. Businesses are required to post signage advising individuals to wear face coverings on the premises. Businesses can download a sign that can be used for this purpose at [www.kingcounty.gov/masks](http://www.kingcounty.gov/masks) | [Washington Department of Health Full Guidance](#) | [FAQ](#)

## Governor Announces Funding for Rent Assistance, Small Businesses, Non-profits, Tribal Recovery Efforts

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the state distributed \$365 million in federal funds to help with continuing COVID-19 relief efforts in the state of Washington. This sum includes \$351 million from the CARES Act fund and \$13.5 million from FEMA. To date, the state had distributed more than \$950 million in federal COVID-19 relief and federal response funds. \$163 million of this week's distribution went to the state Department of Commerce to help populations hit hardest by the pandemic. Funds allocated included:

- \$100 million for low-income renters at risk of becoming homeless, including rental assistance through an existing framework that sends payments directly to landlords;
- \$20 million to provide grants to small businesses, support for local economic development organizations that give assistance to businesses and support for data-driven recovery plans by region and industry;
- \$20 million to provide operating grants for non-profit organizations that are working to address disparities and inequities exacerbated by increased need and funding shortfalls due to COVID-19. Many of these include community and youth development programs;
- \$20 million to help tribes with pandemic recovery efforts.

You can read more about it [here](#).

## King County Veterans Program

[King County Veterans Program](#) is here to help with emergency support, employment, housing & financial stability, and legal & end of life planning. Auburn Senior Activity Center is offering consultation hours over the phone during COVID-19, including this week on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Call Paul Stayback for assistance at 206-477-0648.

The White House's interagency veteran suicide prevention task force released a two-year, \$53 million [strategy](#) outlining public health approaches to suicide prevention, with emphasis on the special needs of veterans. Read more about this [here](#). Visit this [website](#) to learn more about VA's suicide prevention resources and programs.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a veteran in crisis, can call Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

## Anti-Stigma Resources

Misinformation about coronavirus can create fear and hostility that hurts people and makes it harder to keep everyone healthy. We're stronger as a community when we stand together against discrimination. Take advantage of these [resources](#) to prevent, interrupt, and respond to stigma.

## Guidelines on How to Safely Protest

In recent days, community members joined protests locally and across the country in response to the death of George Floyd and so many Black lives that have been taken through senseless, violent and racist acts. Many in our community grappled with attending protests to stand up against these injustices while also wanting to keep our community safe from further spread of COVID-19. For people who have attended protests or large gatherings, we've provided some answers to [questions about the protests and the spread of COVID-19](#).

## Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

The [Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention](#) is taking emergency action to ensure the health and safety of people in custody, visitors, and staff at all correctional facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. King County Executive Dow Constantine also signed an order on March 24<sup>th</sup> suspending the work release program as [part of several steps](#) to reduce the number of people in custody and ensure the health of everyone in correctional facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Long-Term Care Facilities Testing Requirement

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced a new order from the state Department of Health that will require broad testing in long-term care facilities. Under the order, all residents and staff at nursing homes must be tested for COVID-19 by June 12, and residents and staff at assisted living facilities with memory care units must be tested by June 26. Inslee said facilities where everyone was tested last month would not need to go through the testing again.

## Guidance for the Agricultural Industry

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee issued [guidance](#) further clarifying requirements for the agricultural industry. This comes after the governor issued [Proclamation 20-57](#) last week concerning the health of agricultural workers. It also builds on the [Agricultural Safety Plan](#) and [previous guidance](#) from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

## Elective Surgeries and Non-Urgent Medical Procedures

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced [additional guidance](#) for allowing elective, non-urgent medical procedures.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Inslee announced that dentists, family practitioners and other health care services for non-emergency care could resume under new guidelines to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Health care providers must have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment for their staffs, must use social distancing policies – such as limiting access to waiting



rooms – and screen visitors and patients for symptoms of the virus. Those providers must also have plans for expanding or limiting their activities based the scale of the outbreak. Read more about it [here](#).

## No-Cost Rooms for Healthcare Workers

Responding to concerns that healthcare workers are having to choose between continuing to work and keeping their families safe, King County announced on April 10<sup>th</sup> that it will provide no-cost rooms to healthcare workers at Hotel 116 in Bellevue. The hotel is located near Kaiser Permanente – Bellevue Medical Center and Overlake Medical Center & Clinics.

## Road to Recovery Series

State leaders have launched a new Q&A series with TVW called “Road to Recovery” to talk about how businesses and workers can navigate their way through the COVID-19 pandemic. In the [first episode](#), host Mike McClanahan and Employment Security Dept. Commissioner Suzi LeVine discuss the steps people must take to receive financial help due to the COVID-19 situation.

## Reducing COVID-19 Transmission Risk in Correctional Facilities

Gov. Jay Inslee announced on April 13<sup>th</sup> steps to protect the health of [incarcerated individuals](#) by focusing on the early release of vulnerable populations, including nonviolent individuals who are due to be released within the coming weeks and months. The plan will focus on individuals incarcerated for nonviolent and drug- or alcohol-related offenses, as well as people held on lower-level supervision violations.

## Driver License Expirations Extended 90 Days

Governor Inslee has taken action to allow the Department of Licensing (DOL) to [temporarily extend the expiration dates of driver licenses](#). The DOL will send letters to persons whose driver license is set to expire in the next 90 days. If this means you, you can count on your expiration date getting extended for 90 days.

## New Protections for High-Risk Workers

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a proclamation giving high-risk workers the right to protect themselves from COVID-19 without jeopardizing their employment status or loss of income. The [proclamation](#) provides older workers and those with underlying health conditions a series of rights and protections, including:

- The choice of an alternative work assignment, including telework, alternative or remote work locations if feasible, and social distancing measures.
- The ability to use any accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work assignment is not feasible and the employee is unable to safely work. Employers must maintain health insurance benefits while high risk employees are off the job.
- Employers are prohibited from permanently replacing high-risk employees.

High-risk individuals are defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and specifically include people 65 years of age or older and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions.

## Guidance on Funerals

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with the governor's office, the Washington State Department of Licensing [sent additional guidance](#) to funeral homes and cemeteries. Licensed funeral homes and cemeteries may conduct funeral services in a funeral home or graveside under the following conditions:

- Funerals are only attended by immediate family members of the deceased.
- The family members in attendance must maintain proper social distancing, defined by the Centers for Disease Control as staying six feet apart.
- The governor's proclamation does not prohibit embalming.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Storvick, Regulatory Boards Administrator, at 360-664-1387 or email at [rstorvick@dol.wa.gov](mailto:rstorvick@dol.wa.gov).

## Guidance on Real Estate Transactions

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Inslee also [sent a letter](#) that provides further guidance on real estate transactions. While real estate activities along with mortgage lending activities have been approved as essential activities under the Proclamation, such activities shall only be permitted under the following restrictions and limitations:

- In-person meetings with customers are prohibited except when necessary for a customer to view a property or sign necessary documents;
- No real estate open houses shall be permitted;
- Property viewings, inspections, appraisals, and final walk-throughs shall be arranged by appointment and limited to no more than two people on site at any one time, exercising social distancing at all times; and
- Except for the limited exceptions authorized above, all new real estate listings shall be facilitated remotely.

## WA, OR, CA, CO, NV Western States Pact

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced that Colorado Governor Jared Polis and Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak are joining Washington, Oregon and California in the Western States Pact -- a working group of Western state governors with a shared vision for modifying stay at home orders and fighting COVID-19. The approach identifies clear indicators for communities to restart public life and business. Each state is building a state-specific plan, but all three have agreed to the principles of (1) Residents' health comes first; (2) Health outcomes and science -- not politics -- will guide decisions; (3) Our states will only be effective by working together. From the Governors' statement:

Our public health leaders will focus on four goals that will be critical for controlling the virus in the future.

- Protecting vulnerable populations at risk for severe disease if infected. This includes a concerted effort to prevent and fight outbreaks in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- Ensuring an ability to care for those who may become sick with COVID-19 and other conditions. This will require adequate hospital surge capacity and supplies of personal protective equipment.
- Mitigating the non-direct COVID-19 health impacts, particularly on disadvantaged communities.

- Protecting the general public by ensuring any successful lifting of interventions includes the development of a system for testing, tracking and isolating. The states will work together to share best practices.

## Telemedicine Expanded for Medicaid Clients, Public Employees and School Workers

The state has taken several steps to support expanded use of telehealth for Medicaid clients as well as public employees and school workers. This includes: providing services through telephone interaction; online digital interaction through a patient portal; and video-based evaluation and management health services. Learn much more on [their website](#).

## Letter to Tribal Governments

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the governor [sent a letter to tribal governments](#) throughout the state as part of government-to-government communications.

# TAXES

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## King County Property Taxes Payment Plan

The King County Council has unanimously approved a new form of property tax relief, which includes implementing a payment plan for 2020 property taxes. You can learn more about the program at this [link](#).

## King County Property Tax Payment Deadline

Due to the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, **King County Executive Dow Constantine has extended the first-half 2020 property tax deadline to June 1.** This executive order only applies to individual residential and commercial taxpayers who pay property taxes themselves, rather than through their mortgage lender. Banks and other financial institutions that pay property taxes on behalf of their lending customers will still need to meet the original April 30 deadline. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2020/March/30-property-tax-extension.aspx>

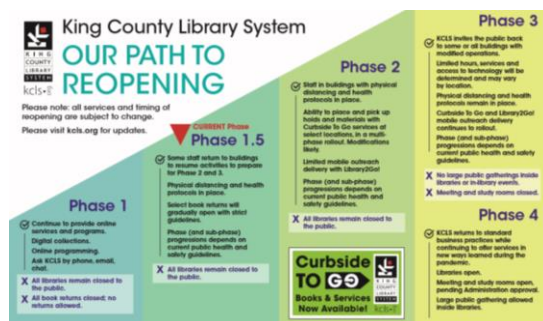
## IRS Tax Refund Deadline

Individual and business taxpayers will have an additional three months to file their taxes this year, as the federal government took more steps to help workers and business owners during the continuing coronavirus crisis. **President Donald Trump directed the U.S. Treasury to move the filing deadline from April 15 to July 15.** Filers will have the additional time to file and make payments without any penalties or fees.

# KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

The King County Library System (KCLS) is pleased to add two new services to select locations during the COVID-19 closures, including [book returns and curbside to go](#). Book returns starts on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Curbside to Go starts on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.kcls.org/reopening](http://www.kcls.org/reopening) for more information on KCLS' multiphase plan to expand services. For questions, contact KCLS at <https://kcls.org/ask/> or 425.462.9600.

**Locations:** Auburn; Bellevue; Bothell; Burien; Covington; Enumclaw; Fairwood; Federal Way; Kent; Kirkland; Mercer Island; North Bend; Renton Highlands; Sammamish; Shoreline; and Vashon. The Skykomish Library will follow on July 2—its book return will be open during the same hours below, while Curbside to Go will only be offered on Thursdays, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.



*The graphic provides more details on each recovery phase.*

KCLS continues to provide [online services](#), programs and resources, such as digital collections and virtual programming to ensure that patrons of all ages can continue to learn, build skills, and stay entertained while at home.

- Revamped its K-12 webpage with links to a wide variety of education support resources, tips and activities, from homework help through [Tutor.com](#) to STEM learning from [Tumblemath.com](#).
- Small business webpage with links to information and resources which includes COVID-19 information and resources for Washington state businesses.
- Databases like [Lynda.com](#) for skill building on a host of topics.
- Access for market research tools, and access to Microsoft Office certification classes, plus 425 Startup, a popular program series for entrepreneurs.
- A wide range of streaming content to keep us entertained and engaged. Offerings include movies, TV shows, PBS' highly regarded Great Courses series, and health and fitness classes for all ages.

## PHASE 2: All libraries remain closed to the public.

Staff are allowed in buildings with physical distancing and health protocols in place. Patrons may place and pick up holds and materials with Curbside To Go services at select locations, in a multiphase rollout. Modifications are likely. KCLS offers limited mobile outreach delivery with [Library2Go](#).

## PHASE 3: Some or all libraries are open to the public with modified operations

## PHASE 4: All libraries are open to the public; full-service operations resume

## RESIDENTS | CONSUMERS

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The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions has [developed a list of financial resources](#) for Washington consumers impacted by the Coronavirus. We will add to this list as more resources become available.

### Food Assistance

#### Map of Free Food Resources

Public Health – Seattle & King County and the City of Seattle recently released [a map of free food resources](#), which will be updated weekly. This new tool includes information about resources across King County in order to provide emergency food during COVID-19.

#### Pandemic EBT

P-EBT is a new emergency program for ALL children in grades K-12, who receive free or reduced-price school meals. P-EBT is not subject to public charge and will not affect your immigration status. P-EBT provides families with funds to pay the cost of meals while schools are closed due to COVID-19. If your family receives Basic Food through DSHS and your children receive free or reduced-price school meals, you do not need to apply for P-EBT. You will automatically receive these one-time benefits on your EBT card. Check with your school district to find out if you need to apply for free or reduced-price school meals so your family can receive P-EBT funds.

You will need to apply for P-EBT if your children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals but do not receive Basic Food benefits.

#### Multi-Service Center Provides Free Summer Meals

MSC offers free snacks and meals for children 18 years of age or under through the United Way of King County's Summer Meals Program. Summer Meals will be available at these [locations](#) during 2020.

#### Emergency Food Access Resources

Public Health – Seattle and King County has assembled an array of resources for people who need help staying fed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The page, which will be continuously updated as new resources become available, includes information on food delivery, pick-up, and access in general with specific information for older adults, children, pregnant people and new moms, people without shelter, and more. You can access [the site here](#).

#### Women, Infants, Children

WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. The program gives families access to nutritious foods, nutrition education and breastfeeding support, health assessments and referrals. People seeking WIC services do not need to visit a WIC clinic. WIC services are available by phone or video chat even when physical buildings are closed. To find WIC services in your area: Call the Help Me Grow WA Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 | Text "WIC" to 96859 [Visit ParentHelp123's ResourceFinder](#) | Download the WIC Shopper [app for more information](#).

## Washington Food Fund

Washington state partnered with leading nonprofits and launched the Washington Food Fund. Partnering with Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest and Second Harvest, the fund will collect donations to distribute food to hundreds of food banks across the state. You can find more information and [donate here](#).

## Financial Assistance

- The KCLS Financial Assistance Navigation Service helps point King County residents to the financial assistance programs they need, such as business loans, unemployment claims and rent assistance. Residents looking for guidance may visit [kcls.org/find-financial-assistance/](https://kcls.org/find-financial-assistance/) to complete an online form detailing their small business and/or personal financial needs, and they will receive personalized financial information and referrals from KCLS staff. Those without computer or Internet access may call (800) 462-9600 for assistance.
- Washington State has made an emergency change to how [Disaster Cash Assistance Program](#) (DCAP) funds can be used in order to further assist people in need during the COVID-19 crisis. It is normally used to help low-income families following natural disasters, but the State has made an emergency change to the WAC to allow funds to be used during the pandemic.

This policy change will provide assistance for one month to Washington families and people without children who are not eligible for other cash programs, and who meet the income and resource limits of the program. People can apply for assistance by calling the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 or by applying online at [WashingtonConnection.org](https://WashingtonConnection.org).

- Cash assistance from the federal government's stimulus package, of up to \$1,200 per person depending on income, will be sent to households in early April. For additional information, visit the [Economic Impact Payments Information Center](#).

## Mental Health Support

This is a time of stress and anxiety for many Washingtonians. It's important that people stay home as much as possible and practice social distancing, but that can also feel isolating. The workers in our behavioral health community are ready to help. If you or a family member needs emotional or mental health support, or treatment resources for substance use, please consider calling the [Washington Recovery Help Line](#) at 1-866-789-1511.

If you're feeling lonely, stressed or anxious, check out this State Department of Health [blog post](#) for three ways you can take control. King County also has [mental health resources](#) available to its residents.

## Special Grocery Hours for Elderly, At-risk Shoppers

Many grocery stores across King County—including Safeway, Whole Foods, Target, and Uwajimaya—have announced special times of day where only elderly and at-risk people can shop. Partial list of participating [stores and hours on our website](#).

## Statewide Moratorium on Evictions

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee [extended protections for renters](#) as COVID-19 continues to impact the finances of Washingtonians statewide. The governor first proclaimed a moratorium on evictions in mid-March, then extended and expanded the moratorium in mid-April. *City of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan has already instituted a ban on evictions and the King County Sheriff's Office has said it won't enforce evictions during the continuing outbreak.*

## Unincorporated King County Tenant Protections

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, King County Council passed a new legislation protecting tenants who are unable to pay their rent due to the financial impacts of COVID-19. The ordinance extends protections to residential tenants, including manufactured homeowners, and small commercial tenants in King County. Learn more about it [here](#).

## Rental Assistance

United Way is pleased to announce an expanded program of rental assistance beginning on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to generous donations to the Community Relief Fund and a variety of community partners, one month of rental assistance is being offered to people in King County struggling to pay rent due to the coronavirus. Listed below are the requirements to qualify and a link to the application. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

If you're a King County resident who has been impacted financially by COVID-19 and are behind on your rent, you may qualify for assistance. If you meet the requirements, please fill out the online application at [www.uwkc.org/renthelp](http://www.uwkc.org/renthelp) or call 2-1-1. **United Way is currently fundraising for additional support. Please provide your email and we will let you know if the program reopens. You may also send an email to [RentHelp@uwkc.org](mailto:RentHelp@uwkc.org).**

**You may apply for this assistance if you:**

- Live in King County, WA
- Are behind in rent
- Are economically impacted by COVID-19
- Have a current monthly household income that is below these amounts (50% of Area Median Income):

1 Person: up to \$3,483 | 2 Persons: up to \$3,983 | 3 Persons: up to \$4,479

4 Persons: up to \$4,975 | 5 Persons: up to \$5,375 | 6 Persons: up to \$5,775

## Trouble Paying Rent or Mortgage

If you don't have enough money to pay, contact your lender or landlord immediately.

- Washington Homeownership Hotline (877-894-HOME)
- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau suggestions](#)
- Rental assistance & counseling (800-569-4287)
- [List of Housing Counseling Agencies](#)
- For Seattle renters, the Seattle City Council has extended a [moratorium on evictions](#).



## Help and Assistance for Washington Homeowners

### Federal Housing Support (CARES Act)

For homeowners with federally-backed mortgages and properties that receive federal subsidies, the CARES Act provides:

- a 12 month forbearance on mortgage payments
- a 60-day moratorium on foreclosures
- a 120-day moratorium on evictions and late fees for renters

### Emergency Solutions Grant

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program utilizes federal funds to support communities in providing street outreach, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and related services. This program provides resources for adults and families with children experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. More information about Washington state's Emergency Solutions Grants [available here](#).

### Coronavirus Support and Assistance

- [What To Do If You Can't Make Your Mortgage Payment Due To COVID-19](#)  
Tips and information on how best to work with your mortgage servicer.
- [List of COVID-19 Mortgage Assistance and Relief Programs](#)  
List of federal government programs and mortgage lenders offering relief.
- [COVID-19 Guidance to Mortgage Servicers](#)  
Guidance issued by DFI to Washington mortgage servicers.

### Foreclosure Assistance and Information

- [Washington Foreclosure Mediation Program](#)  
Information about the Washington foreclosure mediation program.
- [Washington Foreclosure Prevention Guide](#)  
Resource for homeowners to learn about how to avoid foreclosure.
- [Resources for Washington Homeowners](#)  
Mortgage and avoiding foreclosure resources for Washington homeowners.

### Telephone Support and Assistance

Homeowners in distress may call DFI's toll-free number **1-877-RING-DFI (746-4334)** to talk to a member of our team and to get assistance in how best to contact their mortgage servicer, and to learn more about their options. If you would like to talk to a housing counselor, call the Washington Homeownership Hotline at **1.877.894.HOME**.

## WIFI Hotspots

The Washington State Broadband Office estimates over 300 new drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots are coming online statewide through an initiative to bring free public broadband internet access to all residents. To date, 140 of the new drive-in hotspots are operational, in addition to 301 existing Washington State Library hotspots identified across the state. Approximately 600 public hotspots will soon be available to keep Washington communities connected. For complete information and a map of locations, visit [www.driveinwifi.wa.gov](http://www.driveinwifi.wa.gov).



## Paying Utilities

If you need help paying your utility bills, contact your service provider immediately.

[Utilities and Transportation Commission](#) offers energy assistance programs.

[Federal government](#) also has assistance programs to help with telephone and heating bills.

[Puget Sound Energy](#) will not disconnect customers, will waive late fees and offer payment plans. PSE will also make funds available to help customers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through its [Crisis-Affected Customer Assistance Program \(CACAP\)](#).

[Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities](#) will not shut off service for Seattle residents during the emergency. They also offer [deferred payment plans and discount programs](#).

[Comcast](#) is offering free WiFi hot spots, unlimited data, and no disconnects or late fees. A map of free hotspot locations and info on how to connect is [here](#). There are thousands of these hotspot locations across King County. The company is also offering 60 days of free internet access for low-income families. To sign up, applicants can visit their [website](#).

[Bellevue's Utilities Department](#) is not disconnecting water service for non-payment at this time. Additionally, it is temporarily waiving late fees for non-payment.

[CenturyLink](#) is not disconnecting internet service or assessing late fees at this time. Eligible customers can get more information and contact CenturyLink.

[T-Mobile](#) is not disconnecting small business customers due to inability to pay at this time. Additionally, it is temporarily waiving any late fees that small business customers incur due to the COVID-19 situation. Eligible customers can find more information from T-Mobile.

## HELP FOR DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIMS

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Programs are carefully considering advisories from public health officials and are providing remote advocacy as much as possible, using phone, video and other strategies to support people who need help. Core services available throughout the County include **24-hour hotlines; individual, legal, and medical advocacy; safety planning; mental health services; connection to resources; and housing.**

Please visit The Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence's website at [www.endgv.org](http://www.endgv.org) for updates and a list of local resources. **All services can be accessed through one of our County's 24-hour hotlines.**

## Domestic Violence

- [National Domestic Violence](#) 1-800-799-SAFE, text "LOVEIS" to 22522, TTY: 1-800-787-3224
- [Domestic Abuse Women's Network](#) (S. King County): 425-656-7867
- [LifeWire](#) (E. King County): 1-800-827-8840
- [New Beginnings](#) (Seattle/N. King County): 206-522-9472

## Sexual Assault

- [King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](#): 1-888-998-6423
- *Peace In the Home Helpline* (help available for DV and SA in multiple languages): 1-888-847-7205

## RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

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One America has compiled a list of resources in Washington State (some in multiple languages) to ensure everyone in our communities is able to receive the care and necessities they need. You can access these [resources here](#) or on the council's [www.kingcounty.gov/council/gethelp](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/gethelp) site. Columbia Legal Services has developed a coronavirus [benefits information guide](#) for people without immigration status, currently available in English and Spanish--and they are in the process of translating it into other languages.

## RESOURCES FOR WASHINGTON STATE TRIBES

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The Washington State Department of Commerce just announced \$5 million in emergency grants is now available to the 29 federally recognized tribes in the state to bolster their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each tribal government will receive an immediate grant of \$100,000, with the remaining \$2.1 million distributed based on a formula currently under development between Commerce and tribal leaders. More information about the grants is [posted here](#) under the "COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant for Tribal Governments" section.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Inslee announced the release of a proclamation related to provisions restricting tribes' use of fuel tax refunds to highway and transportation-related purposes. The [proclamation](#) is effective immediately and will expire on June 27, 2020.

## ASSISTANCE FOR KING COUNTY PET OWNERS

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Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) has joined an amazing regional effort to ensure pet owners are able to keep their animals happy and healthy by addressing food insecurity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the generous support of [GreaterGood.org](http://GreaterGood.org), a national nonprofit that protects people, pets and the planet, Seattle Humane worked with a team of shelter partners to create a distribution hub to get ongoing donations of pet food and supplies to those struggling financially.

King County has leased a warehouse to store pallets of pet food and supplies, which will be distributed across the state. The groups have created an updated [interactive map](#) to help pet owners find distribution sites around the region. Pet owners who are unable to visit a physical location can visit this link to fill out and submit a [Pet Food Bank request form](#).

Click [here](#) to learn more about King County's Pet Assistance Program.

## RESOURCES FOR ARTISTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

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A national group of community members has established a [long list of resources](#) geared toward freelancers and artists. This includes actors, designers, musicians, composers, craft artists, teaching artists, writers, and others.

[Seattle Artists Relief Fund](#) - to assist Seattle's creative professionals such as musicians, DJ's, independent chefs, writers, etc.

[Cultural Relief Fund](#) - The King County Council has approved \$2 million towards 4Culture's COVID-19 response efforts. [For Individuals](#), submit your application by June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm | [For Organizations](#), submit your application by June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

[Amplifier](#) - 4Culture is partnering with Amplifier to select 10 King County artists to provide art work for an emergency, global campaign around the themes of public health and safety, or mental health and well-being. Each selected artist will receive a \$1,000 award.

[American Guild of Musical Artists \(AGMA\)](#) Relief Fund is providing support and temporary financial assistance to members in need.

[Equal Sound](#) has established a coronavirus Relief Fund available to musicians who have lost income due to a cancelled show.

[Foundation for Contemporary Arts](#) offers an Emergency Fund for visual and performing artists who meet certain eligibility guidelines. The average grant award totals about \$1,600.

[Recording Academy](#) offers **MusiCares**, a short-term financial assistance program for personal needs which have arisen due to unforeseen circumstances.

[New York Foundation for the Arts](#) operates the Rauschenberg Emergency Grant program, which provides one-time grants of up to \$5,000 to artists who experience an unexpected medical emergency.

[Sweet Relief](#) has established a donor-directed assistance fund to offer short-term financial support for musicians and music industry workers affected by the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

# BUSINESSES

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## Federal Small Business Administration

### COVID19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan

The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) is providing low-interest loans of up to \$2 million to help with operating expenses. Small businesses in many Washington counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans. The SBA defines a Small Business as one with less than 500 employees. The interest rate is no higher than 4%, and the duration of the loans are no more than 30 years, but looks like the specific rates/duration are determined through the application process.

**Guide:** [https://www.business.wa.gov/site/alias\\_business/1563/sba-disaster-loans.aspx](https://www.business.wa.gov/site/alias_business/1563/sba-disaster-loans.aspx)

**To apply:** <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

### Paycheck Protection Program

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act included \$367 billion to create a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that will provide small businesses with zero-fee loans of up to \$10 million. PPP is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Small businesses will be able to apply if they were harmed by COVID-19 between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020. The program is retroactive to February 15, 2020 in order to help bring workers who may have already been laid off back onto payrolls.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, The SBA resumed accepting [Paycheck Protection Program](#) applications from participating lenders. The [new Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) Flexibility Act](#) offers more flexibility and longer timelines to maximize loan forgiveness, along with reductions to the minimum required use of proceeds for payroll costs. Applications must be submitted by the business and approved by a lender by the June 30 deadline to be eligible.

### SBA Debt Relief

The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-debt-relief#section-header-0>

- The SBA will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of **current 7(a), 504, and microloans** for a period of six months.
- The SBA will also automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of **new 7(a), 504, and microloans** issued prior to September 27, 2020.

## State Resources

### Labor and Industries (L&I) Consultation Program

L&I's Consultation Program offers confidential, no-fee, professional advice and assistance to Washington businesses. These services can help you find and fix hazards in your workplace and strengthen your safety program. [List of Services](#) | [Request an onsite consultation](#) | [Call a consultant near you](#) (King County 206-835-1065)

### Working Washington Small Businesses Emergency Grant Program

Governor Inslee has created this \$5M Grant Program for small businesses using a portion of the state's Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF). A limited number of grants (up to \$10,000) are available to small businesses with up to 10 employees. There are a few counties still accepting applications within their service area, though it's anticipated that all counties application periods will be closed by April 17<sup>th</sup>. *Department of Commerce awards first [500 grants in 20 counties](#).*  
**Applications closed in King County.**

### Association of Washington Business

The Association of Washington Business announced a [new website](#) aimed at helping Washington businesses safely welcome back employees and customers. It features an online portal to connect Washington businesses with 'Made in Washington' manufacturers of personal protective equipment (PPE), plus a toolkit for small businesses to help prepare their physical spaces for reopening and assist in communicating new health and safety protocols with employees and customers.

### Business Response Center

The state Economic Resiliency Team (ERT) has started a Business Response Center to answer general business inquiries around financial help or other business assistance during the COVID-19 outbreak. Businesses with questions [can fill out a form on coronavirus.wa.gov](#), a one-stop portal to get information related to COVID-19.

### Washington State Department of Commerce

The Washington Department of Commerce has created a list of [crisis planning tools and resources](#) where you can get information about emergency grants, disaster loans, and other small business support.

### Washington State Department of Revenue

The Washington State Department of Revenue can provide extensions on taxes and/or waive filing fees. Contact DOR at 360-705- 6705. <https://dor.wa.gov/about/business-relief-during-covid-19-pandemic>

- The law grants the Department authority to extend the due date for excise tax returns. A business may request such an extension from the Department prior to the due date of the return, and, if granted, the business would be allowed to delay reporting and paying its tax liability. If a business needs an extension of more than 30 days, the law requires the Department to collect a deposit from the business. The amount of deposit required is based on the business' reporting history and how many reporting periods are covered under the extension [WAC 458-20-228 \(13\)](#).
- DOR may also waive penalties under limited circumstances if a business is late in paying its tax obligation. The law also grants the Department authority to provide a one-time, 24 month, late payment penalty

waiver if the business has not owed a late payment penalty during the previous 24 months [WAC 458-20-228 \(9\)](#).

- DOR may also work with businesses that cannot file or pay their taxes on time if they are impacted by a declared state of emergency. When a state of emergency or disaster has been officially declared, affected businesses that owe Washington taxes may qualify for:
  - A filing extension for excise tax returns (without the limitations described above); and/or
  - A late payment penalty waiver request (without the limitations described above)

## Export assistance

- The Washington State Department of Commerce's Export Assistance Team division can help companies identify alternative markets and provide firms with STEP Vouchers to defray the costs of trade show or trade mission fees, airfare, interpreter and translation services, business matchmaking, export training programs and more. Visit: [www.commerce.wa.gov/promoting-washington-state/export-assistance](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/promoting-washington-state/export-assistance) or contact the Export Assistance team at 206.256.6100.
- The SBA's Export Working Capital Program can help small businesses obtain working capital advances from lenders on export orders, export receivables or letters of credit. SBA's Senior International Credit Officers can work directly with an impacted company to explain the program and application process. Visit: <https://www.sba.gov/content/financing-your-small-business-exports-foreigninvestments-or-projects-0>

## Employer and worker assistance

- The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) can provide support in the form of unemployment benefits. For employers that want to keep from losing highly-trained employees, these unemployment benefits can be received through, or while covered by, Shared Work, Partial Unemployment and Standby (which allow certain workers to collect unemployment while remaining with their employers and not actively seeking other jobs).  
Visit: <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19>
- ESD's Paid Family and Medical Leave program can provide paid leave benefits for Washington workers who need to take time off from work due to a serious health condition or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Certification by a healthcare provider is required for applications for Paid Family and Medical Leave due to a serious health condition.  
Visit: <https://paidleave.wa.gov/>
- If COVID-19 disrupts a Washington business and causes a mass layoff or closure, ESD and its local workforce development board partners can respond with Rapid Response services and funding to help impacted workers get connected to unemployment benefits and re-employment services, including re-training, worker support services, and referrals to other social services.  
Visit: <https://www.esd.wa.gov/newsroom/layoffassistance>

## King County Resources

### Small Business Assistance Program - Unincorporated King County

King County is launching a new program to help small businesses in unincorporated King County that have been hurt by COVID-19. The program includes \$5,000 grants to help businesses “keep the lights on,” as well as technical and language assistance. To learn more about this program, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/localbusinesshelp](http://www.kingcounty.gov/localbusinesshelp).

To find out if your business is in unincorporated King County, here are two ways to find out:

- Find your business [on this map](#). The green layer indicates unincorporated King County.
- Enter the business address in [King County's Parcel Viewer](#) and see what's listed for Jurisdiction.

### Coaching & Technical Assistance

If your business is in unincorporated King County, you can get help from a U.S. Treasury-certified community development financial institution. Technical assistance coaches can help you with...

- Information about the latest (federal, state, and local) funding and loan resources
- Utility bill assistance
- Filling out grant or funding application forms
- Coaching to help your business survive the impacts of Covid-19 closures
- Other advice and assistance

To access this technical assistance, call 206-331-3275 and leave a voice mail with your contact information. A technical services coach will call you back within two business days. You may also fill out and submit a Technical Assistance/Coaching Request Form at this [website](#).

### Grants

Small businesses in unincorporated King County hurt by COVID-19 can apply for grants starting June 26<sup>th</sup> until July 10<sup>th</sup>. Materials and detailed instructions for applying will be posted in English and eight other languages on the [project website](#). To be eligible, a business must:

- Be active and licensed in the state of Washington, with a physical business address in unincorporated King County
- Have **no more than 15 full-time employees**
- Have been **in business for at least three years** as of Jan. 1, 2020
- Have gross revenues of **up to \$1.5 million per year**
- Have received **no other COVID-19 related aid** from federal programs, including grants, loans, or other support

### King County Office of Equity & Social Justice Community Response Fund

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the King County Council approved a second emergency supplemental budget proposed by Executive Dow Constantine to provide additional resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the legislation is \$1 million for the [Office of Equity and Social Justice \(OESJ\)](#) to expand funding for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund. Click [here](#) to know more. **The application deadline has been EXTENDED to June 23, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** OESJ previously awarded grants to [39 applicants](#) on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Local Resources

### Federal Way COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Grant Program

Small businesses may now begin applying [online](#) for the Federal Way COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Grant Program. There will be two rounds of grant disbursements available to Federal Way-based businesses with \$1 million available in each round. There will be \$1,000 and \$2,000 grants available. Applications will be accepted until midnight, July 15, 2020.

For assistance with the grant application, or to request a paper or electronic application, a grant hotline is available at 253-835-2414. Business owners can also email [CovidGrant@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:CovidGrant@cityoffederalway.com) for more information.

## OTHER GRANT-BASED ASSISTANCE

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### 4Culture Building for Equity Grants

4Culture is relaunching their Building for Equity program to comply with COVID-19 Public Health guidelines. You can now apply for a capacity building grant to implement a project to advance your goals around securing and maintaining a cultural space. These grants are up to \$25,000 to support a wide range of activities to increase an organization's capacity to obtain and keep cultural space. The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on July 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, email [buildingforequity@4culture.org](mailto:buildingforequity@4culture.org) or call 206-263-3223.

**Apply Now:** [Capacity Building Grants](#) | [Learning Circles Program](#)

### Seattle Small Business Stabilization Fund

For microbusinesses with 5 or fewer employees, owner with low/medium income (less than 80% area median income), and a physical location. The City of Seattle has delayed B&O taxes for small business and established a [small business stabilization fund](#) to provide grants of up to \$10,000.

### Seattle Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund

The Seattle Foundation announced a total of \$9.2 million in grants, funded by private philanthropic donors to support childcare, mental and behavioral health, and emergency financial assistance for vulnerable workers and families. You can learn more about the grants [here](#).

For community-based organizations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and its consequences. The Seattle Foundation announced over \$10 million in [grants](#) to nonprofit organizations providing a variety of critical services in this difficult time.

### Amazon Neighborhood Small Business Relief Program

Will provide [assistance](#) for businesses with fewer than 50 employees or \$7 million in annual revenue, as well as a physical presence near Amazon's buildings in South Lake Union, Denny Regrade or downtown Bellevue. Funds are expected to be disbursed in early April.



## Facebook Small Business Grants Program

\$100 million in cash [grants](#) and ad credits (worldwide). Facebook announced that it had set aside \$8.5 million in loans for Seattle-area small businesses.

## Financial services

Many banks and credit unions have options for their clients. Their advice is to call them directly and work out the best plan for your business. Support includes: [1st Security Bank](#), [Bank of America](#), [BECU](#), [First Financial Northwest Bank](#), [JP Morgan Chase](#), [Salal Credit Union](#), [Umpqua Bank](#), [US Bank](#), [Verity Credit Union](#), [Wells Fargo](#)

## WORKERS

The [Employment Security Department](#) expanded benefits for workers impacted by COVID-19.

- Benefits for employees directed to isolate or quarantine
- Temporary layoffs related to COVID-19
- Job loss related to COVID-19

COVID-19 Scenarios & Benefits Available					
COVID-19 SCENARIOS		Paid Sick Leave (employer paid)	Unemployment Insurance		Paid Family & Medical Leave
		Current Law	Current Law	Emergency Rule	Current Law
1	Worker is mildly ill with COVID-19.	✓	✗	✓	?
2	Worker is severely ill with COVID-19.	✓	✗	✗	✓
3	Worker was exposed and quarantined. Business remains open.	✓	✗	✓	✗
4	Worker is caring for sick family member.	✓	✗	?	✓
5	Schools are closed by a public official because of COVID-19 and worker has no childcare.	✓	✗	✗	✗
6	Worker is immune-compromised and advised to self-quarantine.	?	✗	✓	?
7	Worker is afraid of gathering in a group and refuses to go to work (self-distancing).	✗	✗	✗	✗
8	Employer must shut down due to a quarantine by a public official.	✓	✓	✓	✗
9	Employer shuts down due to a business slowdown or lack of demand.	✗	✓	✓	✗
10	Employer reduces available hours due to business slowdown or lack of demand.	✗	✓	✓	✗
11	Employer stays open in defiance of public health urging to close.	✗	?	?	✗
12	Health care workers and first responder are under quarantine.	✓	✗	✗	✓



The Employment Security Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Language assistance services for limited English proficient individuals are available free of charge. Washington Relay Service: 711

✓ YES

✗ NO

? MAYBE (ask by case)

ESD.WA.GOV

UPDATED: 03.12.20 - 1:00 p.m.

## Unemployment

ESD adopted a series of emergency rules to relieve the burden of temporary layoffs, isolation and quarantine for workers and businesses [esd.wa.gov/unemployment](https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment). Some of the most recent changes include:

- You must provide basic information, including:
  - Your name, date of birth, and Social Security number
  - Names and addresses of all employers
  - Dates you worked at each employer
  - Your citizenship status or authorization to work
- **Work search requirements are optional** for all claimants until further notice.
- You can request **standby status for up to 12 weeks**.
- The **one-week waiting period** to be eligible for unemployment benefits **is waived**.
- Once you are approved, you will need to submit a weekly claim for each week you are unemployed.
- If you are unsure of your eligibility, apply anyway. Complete the application as best you can and ESD will follow up with you as soon as possible.

Apply Online: <https://secure.esd.wa.gov/home/>

Apply By Phone: 800-318-6022

The claims center number will be open for questions about weekly claims and other general questions

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (except holidays)

**Monday:** New applications for those with Social Security numbers ending in 0-3.

**Tuesday:** New applications for those with Social Security numbers ending in 0-6.

**Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:** New applications for everyone (Social Security numbers ending in 0-9).

There are extra protections in place for people who have lost work due to COVID-19. These are described at [esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19). These extra protections cover you if your employer closed because of lack of business or a government order, or if you must take time off to quarantine or care for a family member and do not have paid sick leave.

## Tips for Workers Seeking Unemployment

ESD recommends workers take the following four steps to help ensure their unemployment benefits are filed correctly and start quickly:

1. Sign up for the [agency's COVID-19 action alerts](#).
2. Download and review the [ESD eligibility checker](#). This will help workers determine if they are currently eligible for benefits.
3. Download and [read the application checklist](#) to make sure that you have what you need.
4. A SecureAccess Washington (SAW) account is needed to file an unemployment claim. ESD recently [posted a video](#) that explains the process to be followed in order to apply for benefits. After reviewing the video, please [sign up for a SAW account](#).

## Fraudulent Unemployment Claims

Washington has halted unemployment payment for two days after finding \$1.6 million in fraudulent claims during the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect yourself. You can go to <https://secure.esd.wa.gov/home/> to log in or create an account and verify your identity to ensure that your social security number isn't associated with an email that isn't yours. If someone else is claiming benefits under your name, you will need to [report the fraud](#) as soon as possible.

## Workers' Compensation

Workers' compensation is a state-run insurance program that provides benefits for people who suffer job-related injuries or illnesses. It is operated by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries ([lni.wa.gov](http://lni.wa.gov)).

In most cases, exposure to or contraction of COVID-19 is not considered to be an allowable, work-related condition.

However, under certain circumstances, claims from health care providers and first responders involving COVID-19 may be allowed. For a COVID-19 claim, you must show:

- There is an increased risk due to your occupation
- If not for your job, you would not have been exposed
- You can identify a specific source or event in your job that led to your exposure (for instance, you treated a patient with the virus)

### How can I file a COVID-19 claim?

For workers

- Online via our [FileFast](#) tool.
- By phone: 1-877-561-3453 (FILE) | 360-902-5410
- At your doctor's office (if you complete the Report of Accident at your doctor's office, the doctor files the form for you).

## FAQs for Employees

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/workers-compensation-coverage-and-coronavirus-covid-19-common-questions>

### Can COVID-19 ever be allowed as a work-related condition?

Under certain circumstances, claims from health care providers and first responders involving COVID-19 may be allowed. Other claims that meet certain criteria for exposure will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, exposure and/or contraction of COVID-19 is not considered to be an allowable, work-related condition.

### When to file a claim

The Industrial Insurance Act allows for treatment of COVID-19 when work-related activity has resulted in probable exposure to the virus and certain criteria are met. In these cases, the worker's occupation must have a greater likelihood of contracting the disease because of the job (examples include first responders or health care workers). There must also be a documented or probable work-related exposure, and an employee/employer relationship.

### When will a claim likely be denied?

When the contraction of COVID-19 is incidental to the workplace or common to all employment (such as an office worker who contracts the condition from a fellow employee), a claim for exposure to and contraction of the disease will be denied.

#### **Filing a worker's compensation claim: Exposure vs. contraction of COVID-19**

Workers exposed to COVID-19 must submit the appropriate accident report form before the insurer (L&I or the self-insured employer) can pay for treatment or time-loss benefits. The same is true if the worker is unable to work during the quarantine period or is ill from the virus. While in most cases, L&I expects to receive claims for contraction of COVID-19, the Industrial Insurance Act allows the insurer to pay for testing before someone is ill when there's been a documented, work-related exposure. If the diagnosed condition on the original accident report form is contraction of COVID-19 and the three criteria under "when to file a claim" are satisfied, the claim will be allowed and treatment authorized.

When a claim is filed for probable exposure and the criteria under "when to file a claim" are satisfied, the claim will be allowed for the quarantine period whether or not the worker actually contracted COVID-19.

#### **Quarantine**

L&I will accept claims of health care workers and first responders who are quarantined after COVID-19 exposure on the job. Other quarantine claims will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

For an exposure claim to be considered, it must meet the criteria AND the worker must have been quarantined by a public health officer or physician because of that exposure.

Time-loss payments may be allowed for lost wages during the quarantine period of up to 14 days. The CDC indicates that COVID-19 symptoms may appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure. Appropriate, medically required testing/surveillance would also be covered. This is a time-limited benefit, and no benefits would be paid after the quarantine period has ended unless the worker develops COVID-19. As with all wage replacement benefits under the Industrial Insurance Act, the first three days are not paid unless the worker is medically required to remain off work on the 14th day following exposure.

#### **Covered treatment and post-exposure care**

Once a claim is allowed and the 3 criteria under "When to file a claim" are satisfied, the insurer will pay for treatment of COVID-19. Currently, the only treatment for this new coronavirus is supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

#### **What if I need to take time off work because I contract COVID-19?**

The first and best option for employees who need to miss work due to illness is to use their employer-paid time off. Labor and Industries has [information about Paid Sick Leave](#). When this leave is not available, [Paid Family & Medical Leave](#) may be available to help.

Check out this [Paid Family & Medical Leave Q & A](#) about COVID-19. Remember, medical certification can be done electronically. The [Certification of a Serious Health Condition form](#), found on the ["Get ready to apply" page](#) of the paid leave website, can be emailed to your

healthcare provider and emailed back to you, then you can upload it to your Paid Leave account. Electronic signatures from healthcare providers are accepted.

**If I become seriously ill and I am forced to quit my job as a result of COVID-19, will I qualify for unemployment benefits?**

You may qualify for Paid Family & Medical while you are sick. You can learn more by checking out the [Q & A](#) on the Paid Family & Medical Leave website. Once you recover and available for work again, you can apply for unemployment benefits.

**What if I am asked by a medical professional or public health official to quarantine as a result of COVID-19, but I am not sick?**

If you are following guidance issued by a medical professional or public health official to isolate or quarantine yourself as a result of exposure to COVID-19 and you are not receiving paid sick leave from your employer, you may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. If you know you can return to your job as soon as your isolation or quarantine is lifted, you may not need to search for work.

**What if my employer goes out of business as a result of COVID-19?**

You are eligible for unemployment benefits. Here are instructions on [how to apply for unemployment benefits](#). (These benefits are intended to assist workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.)

**My employer has shutdown operations temporarily because an employee is sick and other employees have been asked to isolate or quarantine as a result of COVID-19. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?**

If you are not receiving payment from your employer, such as paid sick leave or paid time off, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits during this time.

**What if I am temporarily laid off work because business has slowed down as a result of COVID-19?**

If you are laid off work temporarily or if your hours are reduced due to a business slowdown or a lack of demand as a result of COVID-19, you may be able to receive unemployment benefits.

- [Standby](#) means you do not have to look for another job while you collect unemployment benefits, so long as you stay in touch with your regular employer. Standby is for both part-time and full-time employees.
- [Partial Employment or SharedWork: Under certain circumstances, you may work part-time while collecting unemployment benefits.](#)

**I am a part-time employee. Am I eligible for standby?**

Under the emergency rules we put into place as a result of COVID-19, standby may be available to you if you meet the minimum requirement of 680 hours.

**What should I do if I contract COVID-19 on the job?**

See information from the Dept. of Labor and Industries [information on Workers' Compensation](#).

**Do I qualify for unemployment benefits if I become seriously ill and I am forced to quit my job as a result of COVID-19?**

You may qualify for Paid Family & Medical while you are sick under the existing program. You can learn more by checking out the [Q & A](#). Once you recover and are available for work again, you can apply for unemployment benefits.

**How am I supposed to meet deadlines related to my existing unemployment claim or attend mandatory appointments, such as training programs or mandatory reemployment service appointments, if I am in isolation or quarantine as a result of COVID-19?**

Under the emergency rules we put into place as a result of COVID-19, we are providing more leniency for many UI deadlines and mandatory appointments, such as deadlines for training programs or mandatory reemployment service appointments.

**I am still confused about what benefits and programs may be available to individuals who are financial affected by COVID-19.**

This [easy-to-read reference guide](#) provides a simple list of many scenarios related to COVID-19 and benefits that may apply.

## Additional Resources

Information from the Governor's Office:

[COVID-19 resource list for impacted Washington businesses and workers](#)

Information from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

[Protect Yourself Financially from the Coronavirus](#)

Information from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority:

[Job Interrupted —A To-Do List for Tough Times](#)

Information from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority:

[Financial Peace of Mind in the Age of Coronavirus](#)

Information from the Federal Trade Commission:

[Avoiding Coronavirus Scams](#)

# INSURANCE

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The Washington State [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#) has resources and information available for consumers who have insurance related questions.

## Health Insurance

### Special Enrollment for WA Health Plan Extended

A special enrollment period is now available through May 8, 2020 to qualified individuals who are uninsured. Coverage will start May 1, 2020 for customers who enroll after April 8<sup>th</sup>. Those who are currently uninsured should contact a Navigator for help filling out an application and selecting a plan. [Enrollment information](#) | [Navigator search](#)

### Health Insurance FAQs

#### Will my insurance cover testing and treatment for COVID-19?

Yes. Most health insurance plans will cover testing and treatment for medically-necessary services related to COVID-19. Commissioner Kreidler has ordered all health plans his office regulates to waive copays and deductibles for people requiring [testing for COVID-19](#). If you are concerned about whether or not you should be tested, read the guidance from the Department of Health and call your providers first. Copays and deductibles will still apply if you need treatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is [updating its recommendations \(www.cdc.gov\)](#) for who should be tested. If you are a member of a health sharing ministry, your coverage may be limited. Check the language of your coverage to understand what's covered and what's excluded.

#### Is testing free? Is the patient exam free?

Commissioner Kreidler has ordered all health plans regulated by his office to cover testing for COVID-19 without copays or deductibles. His emergency order is in effect from March 5-May 4, 2020. State-regulated health plans include individual health plans, small employer health plans and some large employer plans. **It does not apply to employer plans that are self-funded, Medicaid, Medicare, federal employee health plans, health plans for members of the military or veterans, or the Uniform Medical Plan for state and school employees.** If you are unsure what type of health plan you have, you should contact your employer's HR department. We estimate there are 1.2 million people in state-regulated health plans in Washington state.

Before you show up at your provider's office, make sure you have the [symptoms necessary for testing](#) (the criteria are changing as more tests become available) and contact your provider's office first. If you do not have COVID-19, the testing and visit will be covered by your plan, but may not be free.

#### Will my health insurer waive my deductible since this has been declared an emergency?

Commissioner Kreidler has [instructed all state-regulated health plans](#) to waive deductibles and copays for people who need testing for COVID-19. [State law](#) gives him the authority to do so, once the governor has issued an emergency proclamation. The waiver only applies to the testing for COVID-19 and the provider visit to order the testing. People who suspect they need testing

should check with the [Department of Health](#) and contact their provider's office first. People who do not test positive for COVID-19 may still need to meet their deductibles and pay a copay.

**What if I have a high-deductible health plan with a health-savings account?**

The co-pay and deductible waiver also applies to all high-deductible health plans with qualifying health savings accounts (HSAs), according to [guidance from the IRS \(PDF, 27KB\)](#).

**What guidance are you giving to health insurers, if any?**

We are telling all [state-regulated health insurers](#) to waive copays and deductibles for enrollees who need testing for coronavirus, COVID-19. This applies to the test itself and the provider visit. Also, we're telling health insurers to not require any prior approval for testing or treatment of COVID-19, to allow a one-time early refill for prescriptions, and allow enrollees to see out-of-network providers for testing and treatment with no additional costs, if the insurer doesn't have enough in-network providers to meet demand.

**Will my health plan allow me to refill my prescriptions early so I can have a 30-day supply on hand?**

The commissioner has instructed health plans to allow for one-time early refill for most prescriptions. You should check with your health plan if you have questions about whether or not your prescription is included. Also, the federal government is directing Medicare Part D (prescription drug plans) and Medicare Advantage plans to allow early refills, too, but you should check with your plan for more details.

**Could I get a surprise bill if I need testing or treatment for coronavirus?**

You should not get a [surprise bill](#) for testing for coronavirus. All health plans are covering testing without copays or deductibles when you see an in-network primary care provider or are tested at an in-network facility. If you are treated at an emergency room, you also should not receive a surprise bill from an out-of-network provider. If you have questions about your coverage, contact your health plan. [Contact us](#) if you need additional help or if you believe you have received a surprise bill.

**Will my health plan cover telemedicine for testing or treatment of coronavirus?**

All health plans regulated by the state [must cover telemedicine](#) if an in-network provider offers it and the services are medically necessary. Also, the services and how they are delivered must meet federal and state standards for protecting your medical information. Contact your health plan to see if they offer telemedicine through any of their providers.

**What should you do if you don't have health insurance?**

If you do not have health insurance, you should see if [your income qualifies you for free coverage \(www.hca.wa.gov\)](#). You can enroll in Medicaid year-round through [Washington's Health Benefit Exchange](#). If you need an individual health plan, you have [until May 8 to sign up](#) for a health plan. After May 8, you must qualify for a [special enrollment](#) through the exchange. If you believe you need to be tested for coronavirus, you should contact a local medical provider first. For now, they should contact a provider at a [local community clinic](#) in their area.

**Have insurance questions?** [www.insurance.wa.gov 1-800-562-6900](#)



## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance can protect you against financial loss if you're forced to cancel, delay or interrupt your vacation, business trip, or other travels. It can also offer you protection if you experience a medical emergency, damage to personal property and even if a death occurs while you're traveling.

### Before buying travel insurance

Check to see if it covers [trip cancellation](#) due to health and disease outbreaks (i.e., Coronavirus) or natural disasters where you are traveling to.

## Insurance assistance

The Washington State Insurance Commissioner can help answer questions about insurance coverage for damages related to COVID-19.

### What you need to be covered

To be covered against any business losses due to a communicable disease, such as COVID-19, you would need to have purchased an additional endorsement to your policy.

Contact your insurance agent or insurance company directly to find out if you already have this added coverage. If you don't have added coverage and would like to buy it, contact your insurance agent or company to see if it's available. If you didn't buy the added endorsement prior to the outbreak and you want to buy it, the insurer may not want to sell you the endorsement.

## Event cancellation insurance

Event venues typically require the person or company booking a scheduled event to have event cancellation insurance coverage. Coverage for communicable disease outbreaks is typically not included in a standard event cancellation insurance policy. This type of insurance only covers these type of perils:

- Adverse weather
- Natural disasters
- Labor disputes
- Acts of terrorism
- Failure to vacate
- Non-appearance

### What you need to be covered

You can buy an added endorsement to your event cancellation insurance policy to cover canceling an event due to a communicable disease. If your insurer doesn't offer this type of endorsement, you should shop around with other insurers.

Be aware that if you didn't buy the added endorsement prior to the outbreak and you need to cancel an event, the insurer cannot back date a policy to provide coverage for the cancellation. Insurers may also not want to sell this type of endorsement.

NOTE: The Office of the Insurance Commissioner does not have the authority to require insurers to sell any type of coverage or policy endorsements to consumers.

## SCHOOLS & CHILD CARE

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### Campus Reopening Guide: Plan to Restart Higher Education

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee was joined by presidents of Washington colleges and universities to unveil the [guidance for reopening](#) in-person instruction at higher education institutions in the fall. The announcement comes with a [proclamation](#) providing specific health guidance for four-year public and private institutions, as well as two-year community and technical colleges, apprenticeships and private career schools.

### Washington Schools Expected to Reopen for Fall Classes

Washington schools are expected to reopen for in-person classes and other activities this fall, though with several safety guidelines in place and the possibility of distance learning as needed on a district by district basis, announced Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Read the full [planning guide here](#).

### School Closures

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced that the closure of schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19 will be extended through the end of the school year in June. It was initially set to expire on April 24. Distance learning will continue through the end of the year, and Inslee said seniors in good standing could still expect to receive their diplomas this year. You can find more details on the order [here](#).

### Guidance and Resources for Distance Learning

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction published new guidance on student learning and grading for the duration of the school closures and distance learning. You can view the new resources and guidance [here](#).

### Child Care

#### Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers in King County

- King County Council unanimously passed legislation appropriating \$2.2M in funding to provide emergency child care for first responders and other essential workers who live or work in King County. The legislation ensures [essential workers](#) will have access to safe, consistent and uninterrupted care. The County will collaborate with Child Care Resources to identify providers and match families with vacant slots, and their Department of Community and Human Services will oversee the program.

For details, call **Child Care Resources at 1-800-446-1114** or email Cory Snelson at [snelson@childcare.org](mailto:snelson@childcare.org). After intake, a resources specialist will work to match you with an eligible childcare provider that meets your family needs. Please note, verification of employment and/or home address will be required to complete intake. To expedite the intake process, please send the required verification documents to [subsidy@childcare.org](mailto:subsidy@childcare.org).

- For those essential workers who work or live **in Seattle**, the City of Seattle is rolling out an Emergency Child Care program to support first responders and essential workers. If you are

an essential worker living or working in the City of Seattle, [please visit this website to fill out an interest form](#).

## Recommendations and Guidance for Child Care Providers

King County Public Health announced [new guidance for child care](#) and early learning providers that are considered essential during the stay-at-home order. These updated guidelines from Public Health will help these providers prevent and prepare for cases of COVID-19.

### Translations:

Recommendations	<a href="#">Amharic</a>   <a href="#">Chinese</a>   <a href="#">Somali</a>   <a href="#">Spanish</a>   <a href="#">Vietnamese</a>
Child Care Providers	<a href="#">Amharic</a>   <a href="#">Chinese</a>   <a href="#">Somali</a>   <a href="#">Spanish</a>   <a href="#">Vietnamese</a>
Parent Information Sheet	<a href="#">Amharic</a>   <a href="#">Chinese</a>   <a href="#">Somali</a>   <a href="#">Spanish</a>   <a href="#">Vietnamese</a>
Daily Checklist for All Child Care Facilities	<a href="#">Amharic</a>   <a href="#">Chinese</a>   <a href="#">Somali</a>   <a href="#">Spanish</a>   <a href="#">Vietnamese</a>

[Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#) Information and resources regarding child care

[Department of Health](#) Child care resources & recommendations

[CDC](#) Information on COVID-19 and children

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#) Germ prevention strategies and information on reducing the spread of illness in childcare settings

## K-12

- [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) COVID-19 guidance & resources for K-12 public schools

## Higher Education

- [Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#)
- [Washington Student Achievement Council](#) List of all the colleges and institutions in Washington
- [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\)](#) Technical Assistance (TA) Center Infectious disease planning resources

## Career Connect Washington

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal kicked off Career Connected Learning Month in Washington. As part of the effort, [Career Connect](#) will bring daily learning opportunities to students across the state. Every school day at 3:30 P.M., students can hear from real people doing real jobs in Washington.

## Student Loans Deferment

To provide relief to student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 national emergency, federal student loan borrowers are automatically being placed in an administrative forbearance, which allows you to temporarily stop making your monthly loan payment. This suspension of payments will last until Sept. 30, 2020, but you can still make payments if you choose.

<https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>

## Support and Ideas for Families with Kids

The Washington Healthy Youth (WHY) Coalition supports families by providing up-to-date resources, including articles about talking to youth about the COVID-19 pandemic, links to virtual parenting sessions and seminars, and ideas for keeping youth busy and engaged while staying at home. Visit [www.starttalkingnow.org](http://www.starttalkingnow.org) to find these resources. They also are posted regularly on the Start Talking Now Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/StartTalkingNowWA/](https://www.Facebook.com/StartTalkingNowWA/)).

## TRAVELERS & COMMUTERS

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### International travel

If you're planning to travel outside the U.S., be aware of COVID-19 [international travel advisories and restrictions](#). Check for the latest information before you travel.

The federal government is frequently updating its [Travel Alerts](#) and may add travelers returning from other countries to the list of who should be monitored.

Passengers returning to the United States who have been in mainland China within the previous 14 days will have a health screening by the CDC at eleven designated airports. The airports to which all flights carrying passengers from China will be funneled are:

SEA | JFK | ORD | SFO | HNL | LAX | ATL | IAD | DFW | DTW | EWR

### Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is preparing for the gradual reopening of our economy. This includes doubling down on cleaning. Measures being taken include frequent disinfection with medical-grade cleaning products with an emphasis on high-touch areas, and an additional 250 hand sanitizer stations throughout the terminal. Coming soon, bathrooms that aren't already touchless will be converted, two hour cleaning at security checkpoints and deep cleaning TSA bins after hours, and electrostatic sprayers from Clorox and Victory will be added into their fleet of cleaning equipment. You can learn more at the Port of Seattle's [progress report](#). Get the latest about the [airport, travel restrictions and updates](#).

### Amtrak

Amtrak continues to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and is taking action based on guidance from public health experts. [Check the Amtrak's website](#) before you travel by train.

### Washington State Ferries

The [state ferry system](#) has taken many actions to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and keep its facilities as safe as possible. Check its webpage for the latest information. The ferry system also offers a free [travel alert subscription service](#) via email or text message.

### Students who plan to Travel

Students returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow guidance they have received from health officials. COVID-19 information for travel is updated

regularly on the CDC website. For questions about students who plan to travel, or have recently traveled, to areas with community spread of COVID-19, refer to CDC's [FAQ for travelers](#).

## Traveling to Medical Appointments

Public Health is working with Metro to develop COVID-transportation for people with disabilities. Metro Access is maintaining its traditional service area, hours and days of service, and may be an option for fixed-route riders with disabilities who are not currently certified for Access service.

- **Customers with disabilities who are no longer able to reach their essential destinations** using fixed-route service can contact the Access Transportation Call Center at 206-205-5000 for assistance with both urgent and ongoing essential transportation needs.
- **Customers with disabilities who have urgent transportation needs do not need to be currently certified for Access service.** However, those with an ongoing need for transportation will need to apply for Access service through Metro's [temporarily streamlined eligibility process](#). To learn more about safely travelling to medical appointments, see [Public Health Insider](#), the news blog for Public Health.

## Sound Transit

Read [Sound Transit's Platform blog post](#) for the latest information on how Sound Transit is responding to heightened COVID-19 concerns.

## Fares

**Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>**, fare collection has resumed on ST Express buses\*. With this resumption, Sound Transit has also transitioned to a single flat fare of \$3.25 for all Adult riders on ST Express, regardless of distance traveled. Flat fares for ORCA LIFT, youth, seniors and riders with disabilities remain the same. \$3.25 adult flat fare aligns ST with other regional agencies. More information about the flat fare is available [here](#).

**\* Fare collection is dependent on the completion of safety measure being installed at the front of the buses, so some routes may continue to be fare-free until these measures are complete.**

Temporary Recovery Fares on Link light rail and Sounder trains expire and fares return to regular full fares published for [Link light rail](#) and [Sounder](#) service. Passengers who qualify can now [apply for ORCA Lift online or over the phone](#) without having to visit a processing site.

## Fare Enforcement Officers

**Starting May 19<sup>th</sup>**, fare enforcement officers will begin educating riders about the resumption of fares, including the Temporary Recovery Fare, and providing information about ORCA Lift. Once fares resume, fare enforcement officers will follow social distancing guidelines and request that riders show an ORCA card, a Transit GO Ticket app activated ticket, or a ticket as proof of payment.

## Service Changes

**Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>**, service on **Link Light Rail** will also increase, with trains running every 20 minutes during the day until after the p.m. peak. Link will continue to run every 30 minutes during evenings and on weekends.

**Sounder South** weekday service remains reduced to seven round trips. Sounder North weekday service was reduced to two round trips.

### ST Express routes operated by Pierce Transit

Starting May 24<sup>th</sup>, Routes 560, 574, 577, and 594 will return to full weekday service. Route 578 will return to full weekday service, along with additional trips during the p.m. peak to account for reduced Sounder South service. Routes 566, 586, 590, and 592 will return to most weekday service. Route 595 will return to some weekday service. Routes 580 and 596 will have service correspond to the reduced Sounder Schedule. Routes 544 and 567 remain temporarily canceled

### ST Express routes operated by King County Metro

Routes 522, 542, 545, and 550, are operating on a reduced schedule with cuts to some trips. Route 554 is operating with close to full service with only two trips reduced. Routes 541, 555 and 556 have been temporarily canceled.

## King County Metro

Read [Metro Matters blog](#) for the latest information on its response to COVID-19.

Accessible in [14 languages](#).

## Service Restoration

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Metro will restore service to some routes and increase water taxi service as more industries reopen and restrictions are gradually lifted. **For a complete list of service changes**, visit [Metro Matters](#).

- If your route is not operating, [transit planners have created a list of options](#) to consider. Also, customer service is available to help with trip planning 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday at 206-553-3000.
- To support public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19, **riders are still required to wear masks** when riding transit and in situations where they cannot maintain six feet of distance from other people.
- **Fares are not yet being collected on Metro services.** Riders should board at the middle or back doors unless they need to access the ADA area or boarding assistance.
- **Access paratransit program** continues normal operations and follows its enhanced daily sanitization procedures. In addition, riders with disabilities who will no longer be able to access fixed route services due to the reductions can make a reservation to use Access without needing to be certified to use it.
- **Metro added [trips and seat signs](#)** to support public health and passenger safety.

**Text to Departures** - as the new schedule rolls out, buses may be running less often, during fewer hours, and/or be canceled. As such, we encourage riders to text their bus stop ID # to 62550 to find out when the next bus will arrive.

**To plan your trips**, call Metro Customer Service at 206-553-3000 (WA Relay: 711). If you need an interpreter, select the interpreter option (Press 1). Nearly **200 languages** are covered by the translation line. Please note that interpreter calls may take longer.

**For routes that experienced service cuts** (i.e., fewer hours and/or frequency of trips), there's an [Interactive Web Tool](#) listing specific trips cut for each route.

During the COVID-19 response riders should take into account that electronic resources such as Google maps, One Bus Away and other applications and websites won't have accurate information for all trips.

## Passenger Limits

Metro institutes [passenger limits to maintain safe spacing on buses](#). To help maintain six feet of separation from others, Metro identified the optimal number of riders on to be 12 on a 40-foot bus and 19 on a 60-foot bus. The optimal number of passengers in the ADA priority seating area is one. When a bus reaches or exceeds the optimal number, the driver will pass subsequent stops unless current passengers wish to exit. Drivers may show their bus is at capacity by switching the external destination from "Essential Trips Only" reminder to "Coach is Full, Sorry." Customers are asked to please reserve transit for first responders, medical personnel, other essential workers, and people who rely on Metro for access to food, medicine and other essential needs.

## Planned Service Cuts and Revisions in September

As customers look to return to transit, Metro is preparing for this fall's regular service change in September. Due to reduced revenue, the September change will include cuts and suspensions to routes while maintaining a countywide transit network and its commitments to safety, equity, and sustainability. Click [here](#) for a complete list of service cuts and revisions.

## VanPool/VanShare

To support COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, Metro is offering essential workers the opportunity to form temporary vanpools with as few as two riders. Metro Vanpools have been reduced to a minimum of two people for new and existing groups, and Metro is not collecting fares on the service until further notice. Additionally, Metro has designated a limited supply of vans to provide essential workers with a rideshare option where other transit options are unavailable. You can learn more [here](#).

**Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, participants' vanpool/vanshare costs above their employer subsidy will be waived until further notice.** Fares will be waived in-full for participants with no employer subsidy. Metro is also temporarily easing the van ridership requirements. For more information, email [vanpool@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vanpool@kingcounty.gov), visit [www.kingcounty.gov/metrovans](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metrovans) or call 206-625-4500.

# PARKS & RECREATION

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## King County Parks

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the state Department of Health approved King County's application to move into Safe Start Phase 2, which includes new guidance for recreation and fitness. Parks' level of service is dependent upon our workforce capacity, which has been limited due to COVID-19. As we undergo a limited re-opening of certain facilities in the coming weeks, we will be on-boarding seasonal employees, training staff on additional safety protocols, and ensuring facilities can be safely enjoyed by park and trail visitors. Click [here](#) to see what's open as of June 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Seattle Aquarium

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Seattle Aquarium reopened to the public after being closed for months to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The aquarium experience will be different for visitors when the doors reopen. Visit the [Seattle Aquarium's website](#) for more information.

## Limited Reopening of Boating, Fishing, Parks

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Jay Inslee announced that he will allow a phased reopening of recreational boating, fishing and day use of state parks. The Governor noted that local jurisdictions could keep restrictions in place longer, if appropriate. Read more about the amended proclamation [here](#).

### Boating

Use of state facilities for boating will reopen starting May 5<sup>th</sup>, though boaters will be required to continue exercising social distancing guidelines, including only boating with household members and avoiding crowding at boat ramps.

### Fishing and Hunting

Washington's recreational fishing season will open later in May, and hunting will open as well, though both will be opened in phases.

### Public Lands and Golfing

Day use of public lands and state parks, including public golf courses, will also reopen, again with restrictions to maintain safe social distancing, including limiting golfing groups to two players unless all members live in the same household. Inslee also said use of public lands should be limited to day trips and people should aim to get outside closer to home to avoid increased contact. Click [here](#) for more information.

### State Parks

More than 100 Washington state parks reopen for day use on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Many others remain closed and there are restrictions and guidelines that must be followed. Click [here](#) to view a list of what is and isn't open.

Ready to get outside in a physically distanced way? Here are some tips:

- If you feel sick at all, even a little bit, you need to stay home. Wait until you feel better.



- Gatherings are still prohibited. You can golf or fish or hunt or go to the park with people in your own household, but not with your other friends or family just yet.
- Spend your time outside far away from other people. If you are temporarily unable to be at least six feet away from others, wear a cloth face covering.
- Do not travel to outdoor recreation areas. Enjoy the outdoors that is closer to your home. Overnight trips and camping are still prohibited.

Please note that bathrooms may not be open yet at all locations, especially at parks and other areas that were closed for the winter. Do not forget to wash your hands. Bring water and soap with you and don't forget to scrub for 20 seconds. You may want to bring some hand sanitizer and toilet paper in your backpack too.

Individual parks may close again with limited notice if large groups of people congregate there or if there are other safety or physical distancing concerns. If you see any issues of crowding, trash, or other concerns of wildlife areas or boat launches, you can report those issues [online](#).

## FARMERS MARKET

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Like grocery stores, farmers markets are among the many essential businesses that have remained open – with important safety guidelines in place. *Public Health Insider* has [tips](#) for how to keep you, your family, the vendors and other visitors healthy.

### Auburn Farmers Market

The Auburn Farmers Market is open on Sundays from June 7 to September 20, 2020 at 10:00 am – 3:00 p.m. Visit their [website](#) for additional information or check the Auburn Examiner's [comprehensive guide](#).

### Federal Way Farmers Market

The Federal Way Farmers Market is open on Saturdays from May 16 through October. The market is open from 9:00 am to 3:00pm with the opening hour (9:00-10:00 am) reserved for people ages 60 and older, and those with compromised immune systems. Visit their [website](#) for additional information.

## AVOIDING SCAMS

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Consumers should be on alert for increased fraud during the COVID-19 outbreak. Consumers should be vigilant about protecting their finances and should not share financial or other sensitive information with anyone who contacts you unsolicited.

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Your bank or credit union should not ask for your financial account details via email. If you receive an email, contact your bank or credit union with the contact information listed on their website.
- Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

### Office of the Attorney General: Consumer Alerts

Accessible public information is the most effective weapon in our fight to free our market from unfair and deceptive business practices. In our attempt to increase consumer awareness, the Attorney General's Office has created an assortment of informational services to meet the needs of our diverse audience.

We strive to provide the most accurate information, in the most convenient formats, to Washington's businesses and consumers. Traditional news releases, alerts, blogs, tweets, brochures, and special training opportunities all take center stage in our efforts to improve Washington's economy.

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/scam-alerts>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### NEW STATE CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

### REAL TIME GLOBAL COVID-19 DATA

<https://ncov2019.live/data>

911	For medical emergency
211	<b>Washington State Novel Coronavirus Call Center   Washington 211 System</b> WA DOH partnered with Washington 211 to answer questions, concerns or provide information about COVID-19 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. PT daily. Washington 211 replaces the department's novel coronavirus call center. Callers can continue to dial <b>1-800-525-0127</b> and press # to be transferred to a Washington 211 call taker.
211211	<b>Text "coronavirus"</b> to this number to get a reply message with helpful links from the CDC website. If you respond with your zip code, you will receive links to the state and local health websites. Once opted in, users can receive daily COVID-19 text updates and alerts.
206-477-3977	<b>King County Novel Coronavirus Call Center (Medical questions related to COVID-19)</b> If you are in King County and believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or you do not have a healthcare provider, contact our novel coronavirus call center. Healthcare providers with questions about COVID-19 may also call this number. Daily from 8 AM to 7 PM PST
206-296-1608	<b>King County COVID-19 Business and Community Information Line</b> Non-medical questions about COVID-19 including compliance and business related issues. Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM PST
1-866-427-4747	<b>King County 24-Hour Crisis Line</b> For professional mental health services and support.  <b>King County Public Health:</b> <a href="https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx">https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx</a>
360-902-4111	<b>Governor Inslee's Website:</b> <a href="https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources">https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources</a>
206-418-5500	<b>WA Department of Health   Communicable Disease Epidemiology</b> <a href="https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus">https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus</a>

**1-877-561-3453**

1-877-561-FILE

**WA Labor & Industries:**

<https://lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/workers-compensation-coverage-and-coronavirus-covid-19-common-questions>

**1-800-318-6022**

**WA Employment Security Department:**

<https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19>

**1-800-562-6900**

**WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner:**

<https://www.insurance.wa.gov/coronavirusp>