



Mason County COVID-19 Response

Daily Information Release

Area Commander Ross McDowell,
Emergency Manager for Mason County

March 18, 2020 10:30 AM

Information Hotline: 360-427-9670 ext.599

Email: Mason_PIO@co.mason.wa.us

Facebook: [MasonCountyWAHazard](https://www.facebook.com/MasonCountyWAHazard)

COVID-19 KNOWN AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:

****As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Mason County has one (1) confirmed case of COVID-19****

HOW IS MASON COUNTY RESPONDING?

Together, Mason County agencies and jurisdictions through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are working really hard to keep citizens of Mason County up to date on COVID-19 news, cases, and information within Mason County, Washington State and the Nation.

- Staff from multiple agencies, jurisdictions and businesses are all working together to ensure Mason County's needs are met.
- Testing continues throughout Mason County.
- Mason County Public Health staff have been trained and are managing contact tracing as needed.
- Information is being compiled and released as quickly as possible then forwarded out through the Mason County Joint Information Center (JIC).

WHAT DO CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW?

- Mason County has one (1) confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- Compassion toward others is needed for; citizens, employees, employers, government officials and beyond. This is the time where we can support and encourage each other and offer assistance when possible.
- Large Events and Gatherings: Most large events and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed so please check event or business websites for scheduling.
- Food & Beverage Services, Areas of Congregation: Although all restaurants are closed, many in Mason County are offering pickup or delivery options. Call ahead for adjusted hours and services.

AGENCIES:

Mason County Public Health:

Should I Get Tested?

- Those who are sick with fever or cough and who are at a higher risk for complications from severe respiratory infections (e.g., older people, those with chronic medical conditions including immunosuppression, and pregnant people) should call their healthcare provider to discuss whether they should be tested for COVID-19 or tested and treated for other infections such as influenza or pneumonia.

- Other people with mild illness who are concerned about their health can call their healthcare provider to discuss COVID-19 testing and other possible reasons for their illness. Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. We don't currently have medications to treat COVID-19, so whether you test positive or negative your healthcare provider's advice for managing your symptoms will be the same.

Who Can Get Tested:

- Mason County's focus due to limited number of testing kits is on people with COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. The guidance makes recommendations about who is the highest priority for testing.
- We are expecting addition testing kits to our State in the next few weeks, but not everyone needs a COVID-19 test.
- When a person is tested, results can take 3-5 days. As testing increases the time frame of receiving results could lengthen. Testing high risk population takes priority.
- See Mason County's website for current and accurate information:
<http://www.co.mason.wa.us/COVID-19/index.php>

Hospital and Medical Facilities:

- News Website: <https://www.masongeneral.com/about/covid-19>

Mason County Schools:

- Meals for Children: Please see school websites of Facebook page for more detailed information regarding meal programs and distribution locations.
- There is a new Mason County link for school meal distribution locations:
<http://mason.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=73097ed2f7fd413b9e80b44ec0de1108&fbclid=IwAR3fGT6iLGPEHYH-yAVerF9Hz6JtqUyU8he5wDtSHVJsgh8OQGP3kC0jrJs>

WHERE DO I FIND INFORMATION?

For more information visit:

- Mason County's website <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/COVID-19/index.php>
- WA State Department of Health's website www.doh.wa.gov
- CDC's website www.cdc.gov
- Mason County Public Health Information line 360-427-9670 ext. 599
- You can also check company, business, or agency websites for details about their specific agency closures, precautions, and any actions they may be taking to protect their staff or the public.
- See attached pdf document for helpful links to local, state and national resources.