



Mason County COVID-19 Response

Daily Information Release

Area Commander Ross McDowell,
Emergency Manager for Mason County
“Congrats Grads”

May 28, 2020 11:30 AM

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COVID-19 KNOWN AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:

Mason County has thirty-four (34) total confirmed cases of COVID-19, two (2) cases are active, with one (1) COVID-19 related death from Mason County at the time of this release.

Congratulations to all Graduates of 2020. You have worked hard, and we are proud of you!!!



GOVERNOR INSLEE – RELIGIOUS AND FAITH-BASED SERVICES GUIDANCE:

- Beginning today, religious and faith-based organizations in Phase 1 counties may host up to 100 people for outdoor services. In Phase 2, they can host up to 25% of their capacity or 50 individuals, whichever is less, as well as conduct in-home services of five people.
- “As I have said before, this crisis may affect our ability to physically connect but it should not affect our power to strengthen our emotional connections,” Inslee said during a press conference Wednesday. “I have been heartened to see the ways religious groups found to not only continue to connect, but to give back and to support their communities in this time of suffering and uncertainty.”
- The religious services covered include all worship services, religious study classes, religious ceremonies, religious holiday celebrations, weddings, and funerals.

NEW DEFINITION OF A CLOSE CONTACT:

Today, the Washington State Department of Health updated the definition of a COVID-19 close contact to align with new CDC guidance. The new guidance states that a close contact is defined as someone who was within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes. Previous guidance stated 10 minutes.

"Our guidance has changed over time as we learn more about COVID-19, and will continue to do so in the future," said State Health Officer Dr. Kathy Lofy. "This update doesn't change our recommendations for members of the public. We continue to urge people to maintain physical distance to protect themselves and others."

TESTING AT LONG-TERM HEALTHCARE FACILITIES:

Mason County Public Health has been coordinating testing of all staff and residents in our local nursing homes. The Washington State Department of Health will take over the management of the testing by providing kits to skilled nursing home staff.

WASHINGTON COUNTIES SAFE START STATUS:

- **Mason County** is currently **in phase two** of the Safe Start reopening process.
- **24 Counties approved to move to Phase II:** Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Cowlitz, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific, Pend Orielle, San Juan, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla and Whitman
- **3 Counties eligible to submit a variance application:** Clallam, Kitsap and Klickitat.
- The application from Clark County remains on pause due to an outbreak investigation.
- An interactive map is available to help visualize what counties are in what phase of recovery throughout Washington State: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-county-variance-application-process>

***Information last updated May 27, 2020*

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

- Mason County's website <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/COVID-19/index.php>
- WA State Department of Health's website www.doh.wa.gov
- CDC's website www.cdc.gov
- Mason County Public Health Information line 360-427-9670 ext. 599
- State Coronavirus Website: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>
- Governor Inslee's Proclamations: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations>