



# Mason County COVID-19 Response

## Daily Information Release

Area Commander Ross McDowell,  
Emergency Manager for Mason County  
“Celebrate Safely”

May 20, 2020 11:30 AM

Information Hotline: 360-427-9670 ext.599

Email: Mason\_PIO@co.mason.wa.us

Facebook: MasonCountyWAHazard

---

### **COVID-19 KNOWN AS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:**

Mason County has thirty-three (33) total confirmed cases of COVID-19, six (6) cases are active, with one (1) COVID-19 related death from Mason County at the time of this release.

### **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:**

Memorial Day is a time to remember those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It's also a time we can celebrate and thank those who have served and continue to serve our country. Help us honor those by **celebrating safely** and remember to **recreate responsibly**.

### **BUSINESSES IN MASON COUNTY CLOSING FOREVER:**

The stay home orders along with the closure requirements has been extremely hard on our local business owners throughout Mason County. Due to the ongoing closures in Mason County, **four (4) businesses have already been forced to close their doors forever**. As we continue with the stay home order and closure requirements, we now have **six (6) more businesses that may be forced to close** their doors forever as well.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTIES SAFE START STATUS:**

- **Mason County** is still **in phase one** of the Safe Start reopening process. We are working through the documentation and application process. Our County plans to apply to move to phase II. The process is:
  - Recommendation from the Mason County Health Officer;
  - Support from the Local Board of Health;
  - A letter from Mason General Hospital certifying they have adequate bed capacity for our community and adequate personal protective supplies to keep workers safe.
  - The Mason County Board of County Commissioners must approve the request to move to phase II.
- There are ten (10) more counties that are now **eligible to apply** to move to **phase two: Adams, Clallam, Clark, Kitsap, Island, Lewis, Mason, Thurston, San Juan and Spokane**.
- There are ten (10) counties **in phase two** of the Safe Start reopening process: **Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Lincoln, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum and Whitman**.

- There is one (1) county that has **applied to move to phase two** of the Safe Start reopening process and is still under review: **Kittitas**
- There are two (2) **eligible counties that have not applied to move to phase two** of the Safe Start reopening process: **Grays Harbor and Jefferson**
- More information and details are being shared by the Governor’s office on how determinations are made.
- 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 18, 2020*

**WASHINGTON SAFE START:**

There are multiple changes to the safe start program. This information is being kept up to date on the Governor’s website at: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>

**UNEMPLOYMENT:**

**Currently, the unemployment rate in Mason County is 25%.** Due to unemployment fraud, payments are being delayed by one to two (1-2) days to give staff time to verify the recipients are current, qualified recipients rather than a fraudulent claim.

Fraud can also be reported by phone to the Office of Special Investigations.

**Please note:** We are receiving an extremely high number of calls and the fastest way to report fraud is with the form above.

**Toll-free**

800-246-9763

**Fax**

833-572-8423 (Western Washington)

Please also contact your local law enforcement for a case number. The number for MACECOM to report within Mason County is 360-426-4441.

For more information please visit Washington State Unemployment’s Website at:

<https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/unemployment-benefits-fraud>

**SHELTON SCHOOLS:**

In honor of Memorial Day:

- Meals will not be served on Monday, May 25th. Extra food will be given out on Friday, May 22nd.
- Packet pick-ups will take place on Tuesday, May 26th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

**MASON HEALTH:**

Mason Health has teamed up with more than 100 hospitals across the state to support the launch of Washington State Hospital Association’s (WSHA) campaign educating patients about the safety measures put in place at community health systems and urging the members of our communities not to put their health care on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about the collaborative campaign to educate our patients and community members to safely seek medical care, visit our website or any of Mason Health’s social media platforms.

Learn more at <https://www.wsha.org/for->

[patients/getcare/](#) and <https://www.masongeneral.com/about/covid-19> and at this link - [WSHA and Mason Health Press Release](#)

**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](http://www.doh.wa.gov)
- CDC's website [www.cdc.gov](http://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>