



CITY OF ANACORTES

Laurie Gere, Mayor

904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221

www.anacorteswa.gov

City of Anacortes COVID-19 Briefing October 14, 2020

Washington State COVID-19 Updates

Governor Inslee announced yesterday that the five remaining counties in Phase 1 (Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Douglas and Chelan) can now move to Phase 2 of the State's reopening plan. The Governor also announced the creation of a workgroup that will focus on COVID-19 economic recovery efforts statewide.

The Washington Recovery Group (WRG) will coordinate with local governments, higher education and the private sector on recovery efforts. The areas of focus include community and social services, education and childcare, employment and jobs, equity and social justice, healthcare, housing, infrastructure and energy, and support for small businesses.

In April, Washington State sales tax receipts fell 20.8% compared to the same period a year ago and while revenue collections are rebounding, the State's next budget will face a projected shortfall. The State expects recovery expenses to continue to rise and the WRG's role will be to identify a path forward within budget realities and community priorities.

Phase 3 Metrics

The [State's Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) breaks down the current infection rates and metrics set by the state. These metrics must be met before a county can move to phase 3:

1. A county must have fewer than 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over 14 consecutive days. We currently have 41.8 new cases per 100,000 residents.
2. A county must have greater than 50 individuals tested per each new case during the prior week. We are currently awaiting updated information on this metric from the Department of Health.
3. The percentage of individuals testing positive must be less than 2%. We are currently at 1.5%.
4. The percentage of beds occupied in a county must be less than 80%. We are currently at 67.9%.
5. The percentage of those beds occupied by COVID-19 cases must be less than 10%. We are currently at 1.4%.

Skagit County COVID-19 Cases

The Skagit County Public Health District reports 1,169 positive cases, 100 hospitalizations, and 22 deaths as of October 13, 2020. In Anacortes, Island Hospital has tested a total of 6,604 people with a total of 70 positive cases, 10 positive hospitalized cases, and there have been no deaths. The testing site at Skagit Valley College has administered 27,806 tests with 646 people testing positive and is averaging about 200 tests per day. There are no appointments necessary, if you are concerned you have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms please get tested. The testing site will also have free flu vaccines available for those who are uninsured.



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Skagit County Public Health Department

Late last week the Skagit County Public Health Department released a statement on the upward tick in COVID-19 cases in Skagit County. At the current rate of increase Skagit County could move from a moderate to high-risk county, reaching over 75 cases per 2 weeks per 100,000 population. The largest number of new cases are coming from family members and workplace related exposure.

Public Health Officer, Dr. Leibrand is reinforcing the following important points:

- Mask work to protect you and those around you. The evidence is overwhelming; the better we are about mask use, the less the disease will spread. A simple cloth face mask or covering is effective at reducing disease transmission.
- Most of our cases come from family social gatherings and workplaces. Safety guidelines, if followed, make those interactions less likely to transmit disease. For families, gather safe by gathering small and wearing a mask when you are with people outside your immediate household. For workplaces, safety guidelines have been incorporated into L&I (OSHA) rules and are enforceable.
- Contact tracing helps. The Health Department works confidentially with infected people to understand where they were exposed and who they might have exposed while contagious. The Health Department makes private notifications and recommendations to potential contacts preventing further spread of the virus.
- Some of our students have returned to the classroom. The schools are following safety guidelines and there have been no in-school transmissions yet. If COVID-19 infection rates continue to climb, we risk our community's ability have students return to the classroom.

Skagit County COVID-19 Mortgage Relief Grant Program

Funding is available through a grant administered by Skagit County to help homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments due to COVID-19. This one-time grant is for eligible Skagit County residents to pay up \$6,000 of past-due or currently due mortgage payments per household as a result of a temporary job loss, reduction in work hours or income hardships caused by COVID-19.

Applications are available online and will be accepted until November 23, or until all funds have been spent. Completed applications can be mailed or hand-delivered from 9am-4pm to Skagit County Public Health, 700 S 2nd Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. You can find the application [here](#). If you have any questions please call 360-416-1500 or email housing@co.skagit.wa.us.

Skagit County Auditor's Office

The Skagit County Auditor's Office reports that ballots for the November general election are being mailed this week. If you don't see your ballot in the mail by October 21, [you should contact the Auditors office](#) about next steps. The sooner you reach out to get a replacement ballot the better.



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October 26, 2020 is the last day for elections to receive online or mail-in voter registrations. Go to www.votewa.gov for more information. The General Election Day is November 3, 2020 and, on that day, 8:00pm is the deadline for in-person voter registration and to receive a ballot. If you have any questions please contact the Skagit County Election Office by phone at 360-416-1702 or by email at sselections@co.skagit.wa.us.

City of Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Annual Downtown Anacortes Halloween Trick-Or-Treating Cancelled.

This year's annual downtown Anacortes Halloween Trick-Or-Treating with the businesses has been canceled. The Chamber of Commerce has canceled this event due to the regulations and mandates set by the state and the [Skagit County Health Department](#). The Chamber of Commerce is prioritizing the safety of the community. They look forward to next year where we can all dress up, eat buckets of candy, and enjoy Halloween together again!

City of Anacortes Service Update

Planning, Community and Economic Development

City of Anacortes Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

The City is working hard to support businesses and the events that make Anacortes a great place to visit. One way the City does this is through participation in the Lodging Tax fund to promote Anacortes. This funding supports events such as Shipwreck Day, Anacortes Arts Festival, the Museum, the Farmers Market and other various events that keep our town alive and fun!

The City is currently looking for a representative from a business that collects the tax such as a hotel/motel representative. If you are interested in serving on an exciting and dynamic committee that promotes Anacortes as a great place to visit, please complete the [Talent Bank Application](#). More information on the requirements can be found on the City's website [here](#).

Parks and Recreation

On October 6, 2020 the state announced updates to Washington Safe Start reopening plan, including new guidelines that address procedures for youth and adult sporting activities. Whether or not a sport is allowed, and to what degree it is allowed depends on a combination of metrics set by the state. Skagit County is currently classified as a moderate-risk county, and under this classification, the state allows scrimmages, intra-team competitions, and league games for both low and moderate-risk sports such as soccer.

Athletes, coaches, umpires/referees, spectators, and any other paid or volunteer staff will be required to stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. All coaches and students will be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to the activity.



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The Anacortes Parks and Recreation Staff are planning soccer scrimmages for October 17th and 24th at Kiwanis Meadow from 8:00am-11:00am. These soccer teams consist of four children and one coach. Under the state regulation, 1 spectator is allowed per child at the scrimmage and a physical distance of 6 feet must be maintained between staff, volunteers, and spectators. Call the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department at 360-293-1918 for more information.

Mayor Gere's Next COVID-19 Community Briefing: October 21, 2020

If you have a question you would like Mayor Gere to answer at the next COVID-19 Community Briefing please call 360-299-1950 or email coa.mayor@anacortes.org. All Briefings are live on Channel 10 at 4pm via the City's YouTube Channel. The 2020 COVID-19 Briefing Schedule for the remainder of the year is:

- October 21, 2020.
- November 4, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- December 2, 2020