June 22, 2020

BOCC passes Juneteenth Proclamation
The Board of County Commissioners read and accepted the Juneteenth Proclamation for Jefferson County at today’s meeting. The commissioners originally intended to read and pass the proclamation last Friday, however technical difficulties with broadcasting the meeting kept that from happening. The entire proclamation can be found on the county’s website at www.co.jefferson.wa.us

Moving to Phase 3
The county commissioners approved sending the application to move Jefferson County to Phase 3 on to the State Board of Health on June 29. The Board scheduled one more meeting with Dr. Locke for June 29 to go over any final recommendations before sending it to the State.

Updates from Dr. Locke
Dr. Locke reported today that he is working closely with local schools in anticipation of students returning in the fall. “It will take a lot of planning to accomplish that,” he said. Both Locke and Clallam County’s medical director Dr. Unthank have met with many schools and Locke will again today with Jefferson County school superintendents. “It’s very challenging trying to reconfigure the schools to allow for six feet of distancing and how that will work for bus transportation,” said Locke. “We will be guided by how the disease is transmitted, which is evolving all the time,” he added. In Jefferson County, there are three school-based clinics, which allows Public Health the opportunity to be involved.

Masking remains a big issue
Dr. Locke has said that while he wanted to issue a directive about wearing facemasks to keep the spread of the coronavirus he did not want to attach penalties. As we move into Phase 3, risks are going to increase and masking is becoming the strategy for dealing with asymptomatic people. Locke will be consulting with county attorneys about adding penalties and if legal advice indicates, that will be added to his masking directive.
Inslee seeking passage of HEROES Act

Last Monday, June 15, Gov. Inslee spoke with Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi about the need to encourage the Senate to pass the Health and Economic Recovery omnibus Emergency Solutions or HEROES Act, a state and local aid package approved by the House last month.

Under the legislation, Washington would receive $10.7 billion in state funds and an additional $1 billion to local governments. The state’s operating budget currently faces a forecasted shortfall of more than $8 billion over the next three years.

The state will face dramatic cuts to services for the people of Washington without more federal aid to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts.

Restart Partners asks—Why Do You Wear a Mask?

Why do you wear a mask? There are so many reasons. Save lives. Protect your neighbor. Get back to work. It’s the right thing to do. Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is asking you to send a short 10-15 second video sharing why you wear a mask to Info@WSAC.org! WSAC will then put them all together into a "why counties wear masks" video!

#WearAMaskWA.

Participate in 5 easy steps

- Grab your phone, put on your mask, and make a short (30 seconds) video explaining why you wear a mask.
- The video should include your name, where in Washington you live, and a reason why you have made the choice to wear a mask when you leave the house.
- Follow this easy script (or get creative): “My name is (your first name), I live in (city or county) and I wear a mask because...”
- At the end you can add “why do YOU wear a mask?” When you share your video on social media, tag others to inspire them to respond.
- Post on social media: Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and LinkedIn and be sure to use #WearAMaskWA.

Recognition & Guidelines

All entries are eligible for delivery of 5 cotton masks, mailed to you. Entries will be reviewed frequently. Those that shine for creativity, authenticity, high production values, unique location, most stylish mask, and most influential/widely shared will be amplified by Restart Partners and our influencer partners. Top entries will also be also be considered for special sponsor awards including custom masks designed by celebrity partners and artists.

All entries will also be considered for inclusion in statewide public service announcements to encourage mask-wearing.