June 25, 2020

State mask mandate takes effect tomorrow

This last Tuesday, Gov. Inslee announced that Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman signed a public health order mandating the use of facial coverings across the state. The mandate goes into effect on Friday, June 26. A spokesman for Inslee said a violation of the statewide mask order is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and up to a $1,000 fine.

Prompted in part by the surge in positive cases in Yakima County where patients are being transferred to Seattle-area hospitals, the decision was made to extend the face-covering requirement to the entire state. Here in Jefferson County, the total number of positive cases is now at 35, and is rising throughout the state.

“We just cannot wish this virus to go away,” Inslee said during Tuesday’s press conference. “We have to use tools that are available to us that we know work.” Inslee added that masks alone cannot break the chain of transmission. “We know we need to follow our previous health guidance like physical distancing.”

There are specific exemptions in place for individuals who cannot wear a mask because of certain medical conditions., and children under the age of two should not wear a face covering. Masks are available at the following locations:
Safeway Food Store, 442 West Sims Way, WA, 6am-10pm
Food Coop, 414 Kearney Street, 8am-7pm
Quilcene Village Store, 294235 US Hwy. 101, 7am-11pm
QFC Port Hadlock, 1890 Irondale Road, 8am-8pm

Masks for low-income families are available at:
Public Health in Port Townsend
Olycap
YMCA
Food Banks
Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) sets goals
The intergovernmental group consisting of representatives from the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Port Townsend City Council, Port of Port Townsend and Jefferson County PUD met today at noon to establish how the group will function and meet goals in the coming months. The committee was established on June 17 as a way for multiple agencies to collaborate with community groups on the best COVID-19 recovery and resilience plans. The ICC will be working with community groups from six specific sectors to include culture & events; businesses; children & families; human services; food system resiliency and broadband.

At today’s meeting, representatives from each government agency discussed ways they will connect with the groups and reviewed a draft agenda for future meetings that will run through December of this year. Today, members of the ICC group volunteered to take on the role of liaison for one of the six sectors/groups as follows:

Kate Dean, (County Commissioner) liaison with Cultural & Events group
Jeff Randall (PUD) liaison with Economy & Jobs
Kate Dean (County Commissioner) liaison with Children & Families
Ariel Speser (PT City Council member) liaison with Human Services group
John Mauro (PT City Manager) liaison with Food System & Resiliency
Kevin Streett (PUD) liaison with Broadband

The ICC group will meet again on July 23 to discuss the scope and updates from all six of the community groups.
To see other agenda items discussed at the meeting today, go to www.co.jefferson.wa.us click on Videos of Meetings, click on Recorded and look for Intergovernmental Coordination Committee, June 25, 2020, 12:00PM.

Nine brands of hand sanitizer may be toxic, FDA warns
U.S. consumers should not use any of nine brands of possibly toxic hand sanitizer that may contain methanol, or wood alcohol, a substance that's potentially dangerous when absorbed through the skin or ingested, the Food and Drug Administration warned. Agency tests found samples of one product, Lavar Gel, contained 81% methanol and those of CleanCare No Germ contained 28%.

Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and should not be used due to its toxic effects, the FDA stated. The agency urged consumers to stop using the products, which should be immediately discarded in hazardous waste containers. "Do not flush or pour these products down the drain," the agency's announcement stressed.

The FDA is not aware of any reports of adverse effects from using the products, it added. Still, consumers exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical in potentially reversing the toxic effects of methanol poisoning, according to the FDA. Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, and permanent damage to the nervous system or death, it said.

The FDA listed the following products in its warning:

- All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)
- Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-008-04)
- Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)
- The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-010-10)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-005-03)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)
- Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)