July 27, 2020

**Masking remains crucial to crush virus**
During today’s Board of County Commissioners meeting, Dr. Tom Locke remarked that we are now at the six-month mark for COVID-19 here in Washington State. The virus is still surging across the country and here in Washington, there was a surge in mid-July. Jefferson County is holding at 50 cases with no new cases in the past ten days. Both Clallam and Kitsap counties have seen an increase in cases during the past two weeks which puts Jefferson County at risk for more positive cases. Distance between people and the duration of exposure to other individuals are huge factors in how the virus is spread. The most dangerous place to be is in close proximity to others in places with stagnant air, Locke said. According to one study, the chances of getting the virus are 19 times greater from indoor exposure than outdoor exposure. “Everyone is trying to flatten the curve, but we need to crush the curve,” Locke said. “The first two weeks of August will be what determines what comes next. We need to keep our case counts where they are now—zero in the last ten days.” That will pave the way to open schools and get us on the fast track to open businesses.

**Recovery-Resiliency Planning moving forward**
The recently formed Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee or ICC held its second meeting on Thursday, July 23 to discuss updates and the scope of all six community groups that will be working together to create feasible steps toward recovery from the pandemic. A joint resolution has been signed by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Port Townsend City council, Port of Port Townsend and Jefferson County Public Utility Dist. #1. The community groups include Economy and Jobs—Liaison Jeff Randall; Children and Families—Liaison Kate Dean; Human Services—Liaison Ariel Speser; Food System Resiliency—Liaison John Mauro; Culture and Events—Liaison Kate Dean; Broadband—Liaison Kevin Streett. The ICC will consider strategies and actions from the six community-based groups. A final recommendation for a COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency Plan will be completed no later than Dec. 15, 2020. The next ICC meeting is scheduled for August 27 at 5PM and can be viewed by going to [www.co.jefferson.wa.us](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us). Click on Videos of meetings and choose Streaming Live or Recorded.
Facemasks are available at the following locations:
Safeway Food Store, Sims Way, WA, 6am-10pm
Food Coop, 414 Kearney Street, 8am-7pm
Quilcene Village Store, Hwy. 101, 7am-11pm
QFC Port Hadlock, 1890 Irondale Road, 8am-8p

Masks for low-income families are available at:
Public Health in Port Townsend
Olycap, YMCA, Food Bank

FAQs for Businesses/Employers RE: Positive COVID-19 Test Results:
https://jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/1437/Business-Resources

If you have symptoms:
Call Jefferson Healthcare’s Nurse Consult line at 360-344-3094 as a first step. COVID-19 testing drive-thru at Jefferson Healthcare is by appointment only.

If you need help:
• Olympic Community Action Programs: Fill out the request for assistance form:
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1I8KITZeXU70zGI676aBAROdRpxyq0uFPhkq8joult_CU2w/viewform

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION:
• Jefferson County Public Health: https://co.jefferson.wa.us/1429/COVID-19
• Jefferson Co. Public Health Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountypublichealth/
• Jefferson County Gov. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jeffcowagov/
• Dept. of Emergency Management: https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/950/Dept-of-Emergency-Management
• Washington Gov. Inslee’s webpage: https://www.governor.wa.us

Difficulty coping? CALL THE CRISIS HOTLINE at 1-888-910-0416. Other Mental Health Resources can be found at: https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1447/Mental-Health-Resources

Best Practices and Guides:
• Washington State Department of Health: https://www.doh.wa.gov/
• CDC: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov

Questions about Coronavirus?
Go to: www.coronavirus.wa.gov
Who to call: State COVID-19 Assistance Hotline: 1-800-525-0127
• 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday thru Friday
• 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and on observed state holidays.
Language assistance is available. Please note: The call center cannot access COVID-19 testing results. For testing inquiries or results, please contact your health care provider.
You can also text the word “Coronavirus” to 211-211 to receive information and updates on your phone wherever you are. You will receive links to the latest information on COVID-19, including county-level updates and resources for families, businesses, students and more.