



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

STATEMENT REGARDING SAFE START PHASE 3 UPDATE

Island County, June 12, 2020:

The Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening plan lays out a measured approach to moving forward through the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying physical distancing measures and allowing businesses and other activities to slowly resume on a county-by-county basis. Information on Safe Start can be found here: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>.

What Phase is Island County in Now? Island County entered Phase 2 on May 23, 2020, excluding camping. This allowed limited opening of restaurants, retail stores, some fitness operations, professional services, churches, and other activities and services. All residents are encourage to continue to follow Phase 2 guidance at this time.

When and How Does Island County Move to Phase 3? As laid out by the Governor’s plan, there must be a minimum of three weeks between phases. With that in mind, June 13th is the earliest that Island County could initiate the process to move into Phase 3. The Island County Board of Health plans to discuss application for Phase 3 on June 16, 2020. Once local officials vote to approve to apply to enter Phase 3, the application must be submitted to the state for approval by the WA State Secretary of Health. The exact date that Island County may potentially move to Phase 3 is unknown, but the process will start the week of June 15, 2020.

What Should I Do Now to Prepare? Any business or entity operating in Phase 3 needs to complete a safety plan. A template for doing so is available here: https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BusinessTemplate_Phase3_1.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. This is the baseline requirement.

In addition, specific industries and activities have additional guidance from the Governor that must be followed. That is available here: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-reopening-guidancebusinesses-and-workers>

For additional information:

Island County Public Health – www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

Call Center # **360.678.2301**, Mondays through Fridays (8:00am – 4:30pm),

WA State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19) – <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>