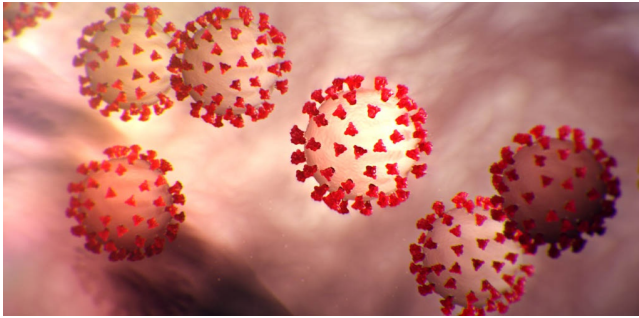




NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



Novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory disease first

identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in several countries, including the United States.

For the latest information on cases in the U.S., visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#). For the latest information on cases in the state, visit the Washington State Department of Health [website](#).

The vast majority of the illnesses around the world are mild, with fever and cough. A much smaller percentage of cases are severe and involve pneumonia, particularly in elderly people and people with [underlying medical conditions](#).

Public Health recommendations

Clark County Public Health issued [recommendations for large gatherings](#) on March 12. Public Health recommended the cancellation of large gatherings of more than 250 people in order to minimize the potential health impacts of COVID-19.

The Public Health recommendations apply to planned or spontaneous gatherings of 250 people or more, including concerts, festivals, conferences, conventions, worship services, sporting events and other similar events or activities. The recommendations do not apply to school attendance, businesses, grocery and retail stores.

Clark County Public Health issued [recommendations for populations at higher risk](#) of serious illness from COVID-19 on March 11.

Public Health is recommending – but not requiring – that people at higher risk stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. This includes large public gatherings where there will be close contact with others, such as conventions, sporting events and concerts.

People at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 include people:

- older than 60.
- who have serious chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease.
- who have weakened immune systems.

Anyone who has questions about whether their condition puts them at risk for COVID-19 should consult their health care provider.

Everyday practices to prevent colds, influenza and other respiratory illnesses can also protect people against coronaviruses, including COVID-19. Clark County Public Health recommends people take the following actions to keep themselves healthy:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

COVID-19 questions?

state call center
6 am to 10 pm daily

1.800.525.0127

- Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home and away from others when sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched.

Public Health response

Clark County Public Health **announced the first local case** of COVID-19 on Friday, March 6. The case, a male in his 70s, was in isolation pending test results. He is currently hospitalized and remains in isolation.

On Friday, March 13, Public Health **announced two additional cases** of COVID-19 involving residents of two long-term care facilities. The cases are a married couple – a man and a woman both in her 80s. They are both hospitalized and in isolation.

Public Health has identified and notified close contacts of confirmed cases. Those individuals will be in quarantine for 14 days.

Unlike with confirmed measles cases, Public Health is not announcing public locations the COVID-19 case visited. COVID-19 is spread through close contact (within 6 feet) and via respiratory droplets when someone coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza spreads. It is not spread the same way as measles, which is airborne and can linger in the air for several hours. For this reason, listing places where a person with COVID-19 has been is not effective. Without close contact with an infected person, you are at extremely low risk of contracting COVID-19.

Health care providers can use their discretion to determine who should be tested for COVID-19.

Number of positive tests	3
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Numbers updated 4 pm March 13.

Public Health is only reporting the number of positive tests. Due to the changing environment for testing COVID-19, Public Health cannot provide a comprehensive count of the number of pending or negative tests. Previously, all testing was done at the state public health lab. Providers now have the ability to send specimens directly to the University of Washington and commercial labs for testing, as the capacity for testing has increased. Public Health is only notified of positive test results.

Additional resources

- Washington State Department of Health call center: 1.800.525.0127
- Washington State Department of Health novel coronavirus outbreak [webpage](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coronavirus disease 2019 [website](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information for travel [webpage](#)
- Novel coronavirus fact sheet: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Chinese](#) (traditional), [Thai](#), [Korean](#)

Parents and caretakers

- Washington State Department of Health [resources for parents/caretakers](#)
- [Just for Kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus](#) (NPR)

Schools and child care centers

- Washington State Department of Health [recommendations for schools and child care facilities](#)
- Washington State Department of Health school resources [webpage](#)
- Washington State Department of Health higher education resources [webpage](#)
- Washington State Department of Health child care resources [webpage](#)
- [Just for Kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus](#) (NPR)

Businesses and employers

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [interim guidance for businesses and employers](#)
- Washington State Department of Health [workplace and employer recommendations](#)

Health care providers, clinics and hospitals

- Clark County Public Health [provider advisories](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [information for healthcare professionals](#)
- Washington State Department of Health [resources for healthcare providers](#)

Long term care facilities

- Washington State Department of Health [resources for long term care facilities](#)
- Washington State Department of Health [recommendations for adult family homes](#)
- Washington State Department of Health [recommendations for assisted living facilities](#)

Communities and community organizations

- Washington State Department of Health communities and community organizations resources [webpage](#)
- Washington State Department of Health [guidance for public gatherings and events](#)

Homeless service providers

- Washington State Department of Health [recommendations for homeless shelter facilities](#)

Emergency medical services

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [interim guidance for EMS services](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Show All Answers

Hide All Answers

- + **What is COVID-19?**
- + **How does coronavirus spread?**
- + **What are the symptoms of coronavirus?**
- + **What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?**
- + **How can people protect themselves from coronavirus?**
- + **What is the treatment for COVID-19?**
- + **Is it safe to travel?**
- + **Should I wear a mask when I go out in public?**
- + **How do I plan ahead for COVID-19?**
- + **What should I do if COVID-19 starts spreading in Clark County?**
- + **How can I help reduce stigma associated with COVID-19?**

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