WHATCOM UNIFIED SITUATION REPORT

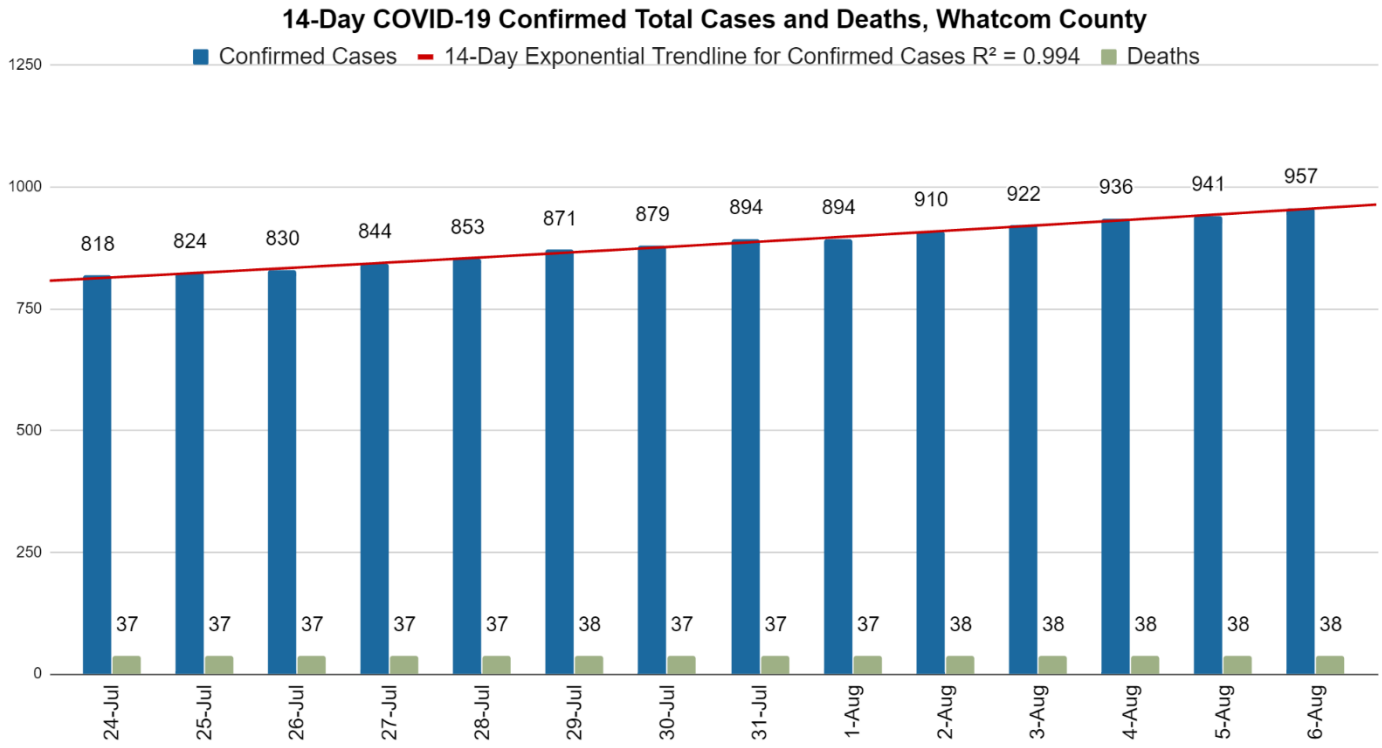
REPORT #: 20200806.1	**DATE**: 8/6/2020	**TIME**: 16:00
INCIDENT NAME: COVID-2019	**OPERATIONAL PERIOD**: 17	**MISSION NUMBER**: 20-0265

WHATCOM UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND STATUS

ACTIVATION: Whatcom Unified Emergency Command Center	**ACTIVATION STATUS:** Partial	**HOURS OF OPERATION:** 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

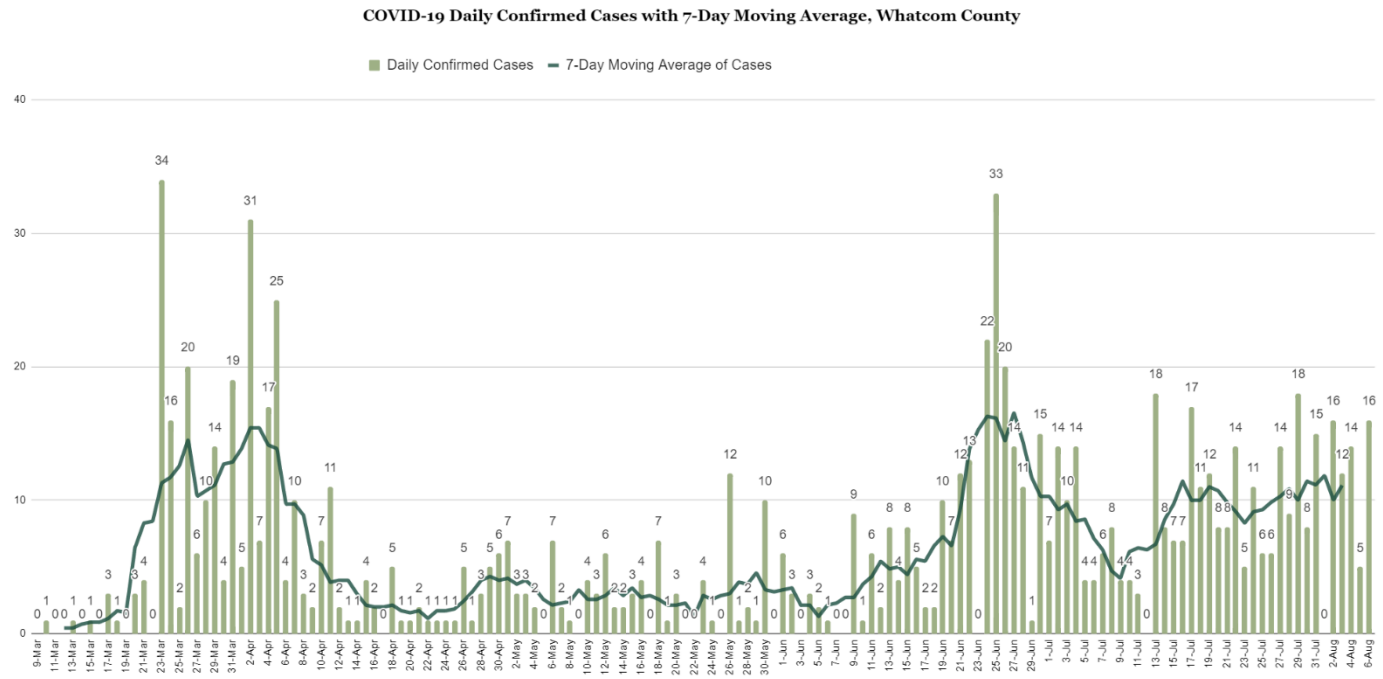
GENERAL SITUATION

ICS 202



DATE	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
08/06/2020*	957	38
08/05/2020*	941	38
08/04/2020	936	38
08/03/2020	922	38
08/02/2020	910	38

**Data provided by the Whatcom County Health Dept is considered preliminary. As they verify cases, we can expect delays and fluctuations in data reported. Data was last updated 8/4/2020.*



S, HOSPITALIZATIONS & DEATHS

Data as of August 04, 2020 11:59PM PT

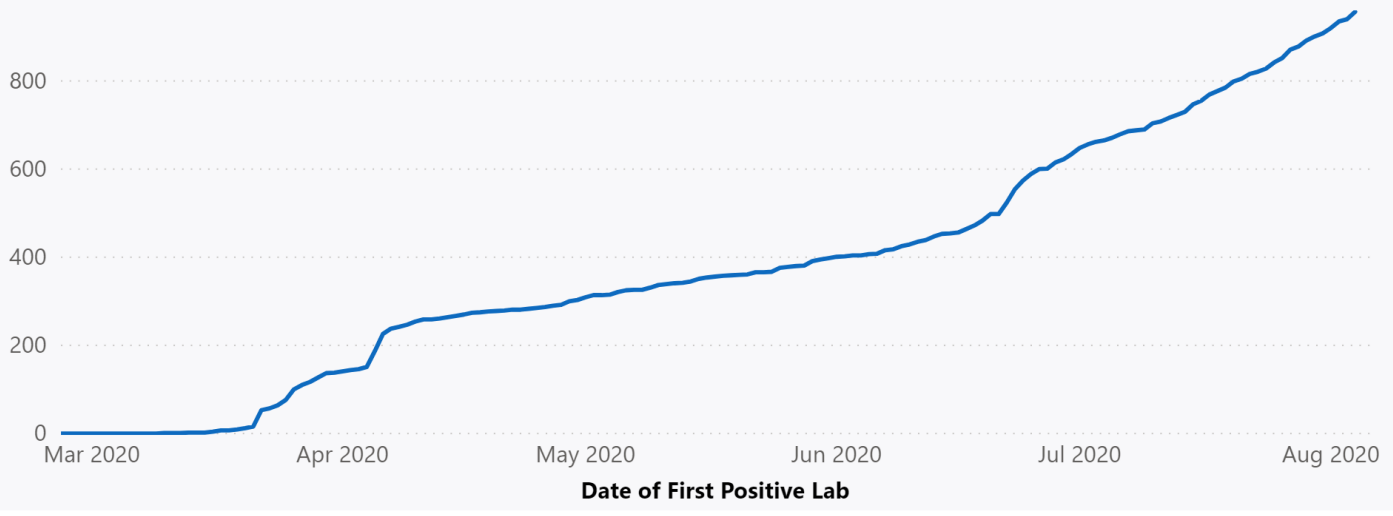
COVID-19 in Whatcom County

Cumulative Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

Learn More

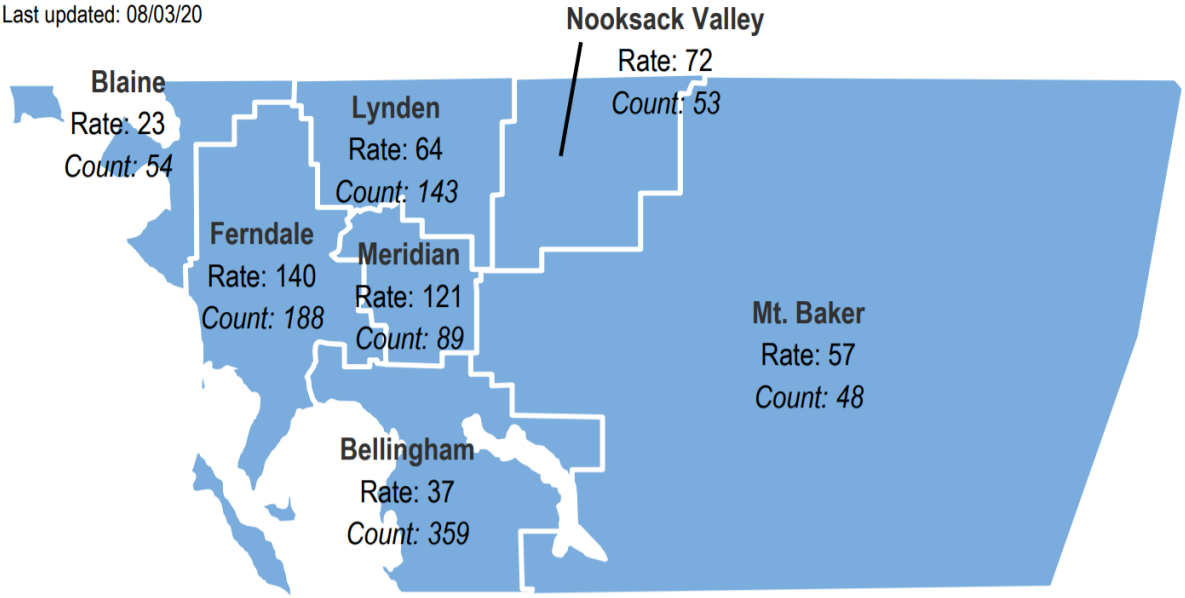
This chart includes the total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 since January 21, 2020. The chart begins on February 28, which is when community transmission was first reported in Washington State.

Cumulative Case Counts



COVID-19 in Whatcom County, by School District
Recent Two Week Case Rates & Cumulative Counts

Last updated: 08/03/20

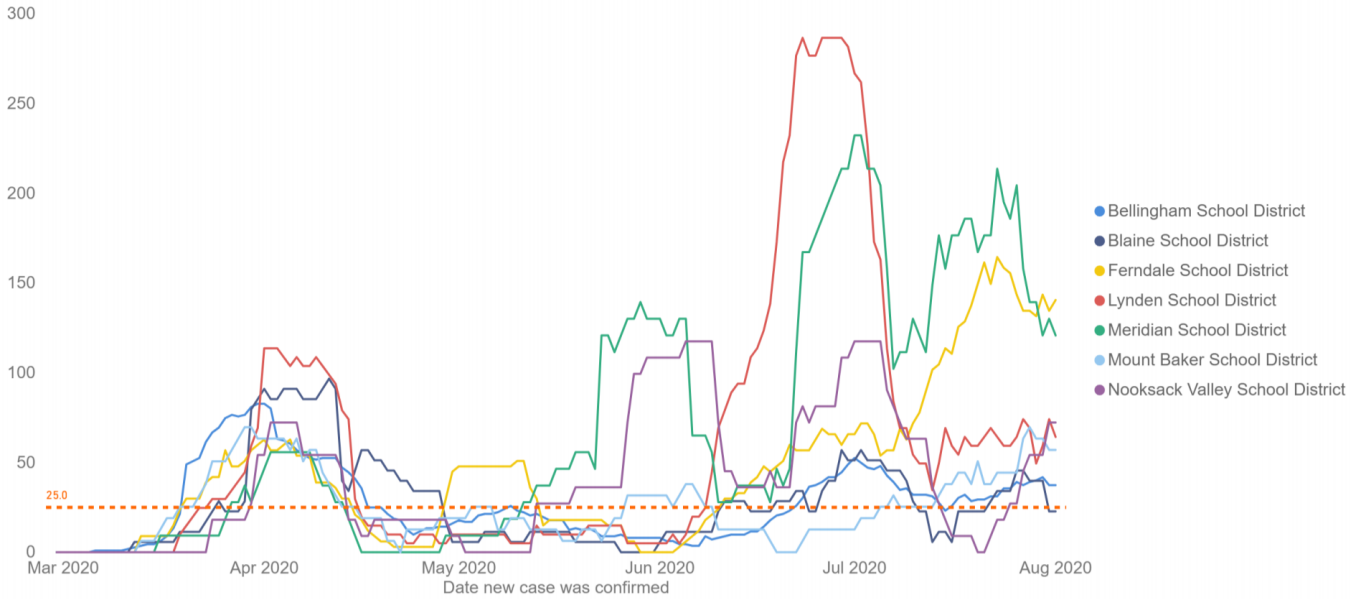


Rate: Number of confirmed cases per 100,000 people for the past two weeks (7/19/20-8/1/20)
State Goal: Fewer than 25 cases per 100,000 people during the prior two weeks
Count: Cumulative cases of COVID-19

- Limited testing may cause mapping to misrepresent the geographic impact of COVID-19 illness in Whatcom County.
- When analyzing data geographically, school districts are used as community boundaries because people often identify their community in connection to schools and school districts.

Newly diagnosed cases per 100,000 people during the prior two weeks, by Whatcom County School District Geography

Goal: Fewer than 25 cases per 100,000 people during the prior two weeks



COVID-19 in Whatcom County

Confirmed Cases and Deaths by Illness Onset Date, and Hospitalizations by Admission Date

This chart shows the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington by cases, hospitalizations and deaths over time and is known as an epidemiologic curve. The epidemiologic curve is the curve referred to in the phrase, "flatten the curve."

Learn More

The table includes cases, hospitalizations and deaths by County and Age Group. Given the sensitivity of the data, counties with 5 or fewer cases have been removed.

County	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Whatcom County			
Age 20-39	302	9	0
Age 40-59	203	20	1
Age 0-19	136	2	0
Age 60-79	123	25	7
Age 80+	80	17	29
Unknown Age	0	0	0

**Source: Whatcom County Health Department:* https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3329/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Data for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center

Updated as of 8/6/2020:

- **3 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients**
- **0 suspected COVID-19 patients**
- **0 ventilators in use for COVID-19 positive patients**
- **39 ventilators available**
- **42 surge/overflow beds available**

** The data reported is the most current information provided from PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center. Information is updated as soon as it is available.*

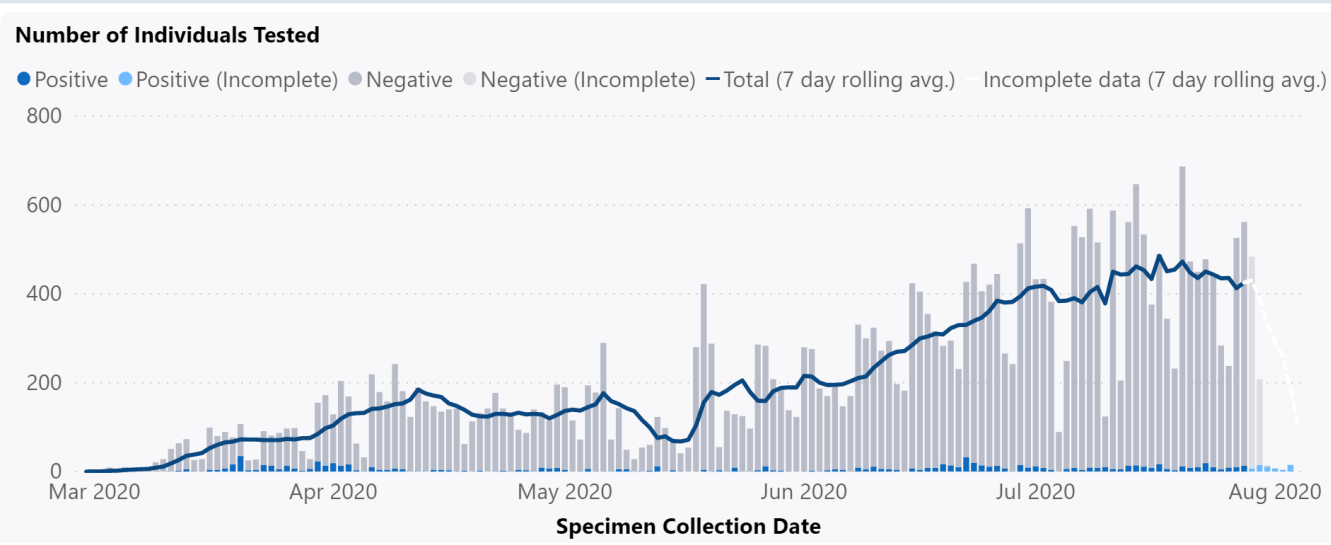
WHATCOM COUNTY-NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS TESTED

COVID-19 in Whatcom County

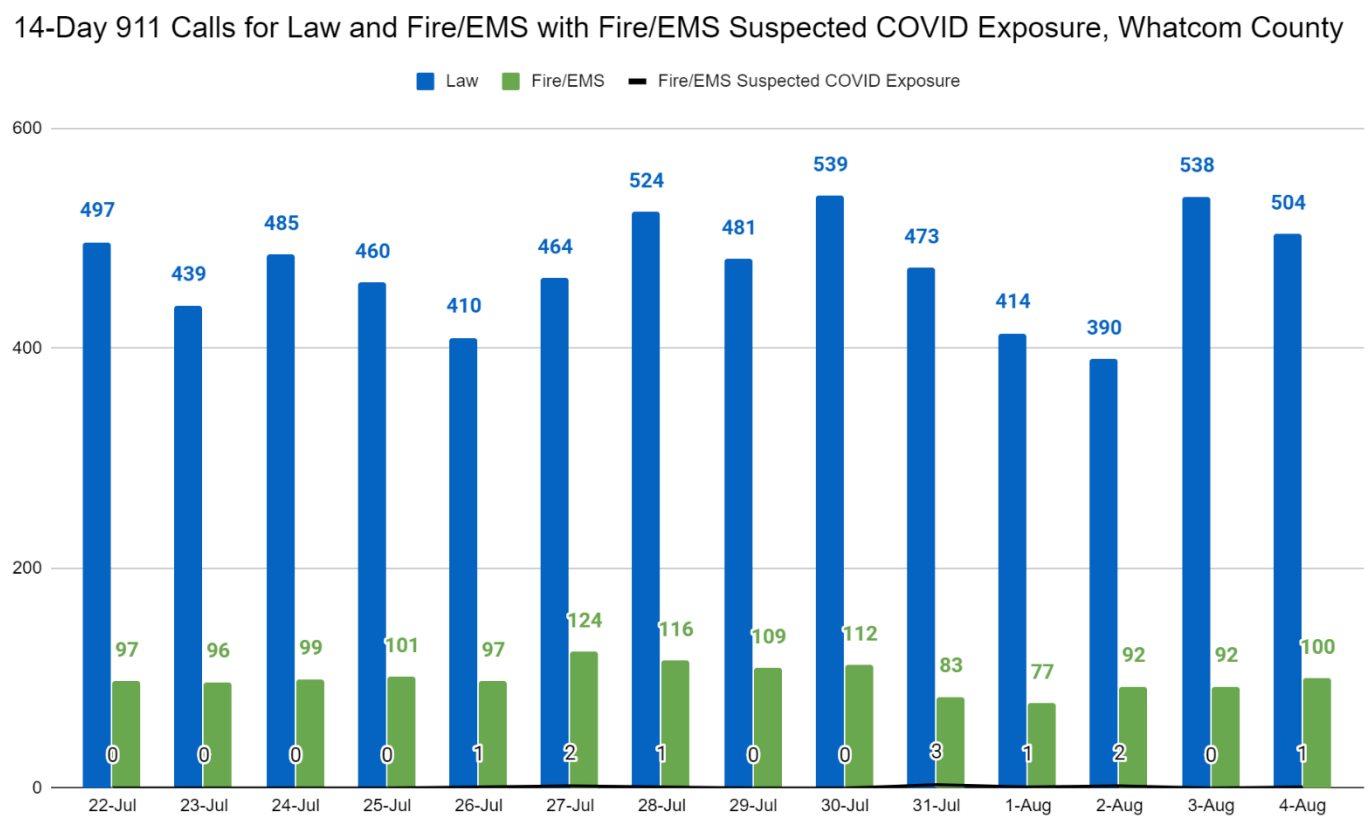
Number of Individuals Tested by Specimen Collection Date

Testing for COVID-19 has been steadily increasing in Washington. Beginning in late March, drive-through testing became available in some communities, which increased testing availability.

Learn More



***Source: Washington State Department of Health*
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/DataDashboard



**Note: A single incident can generate multiple 911 calls and incidents can occur without a 911 call.*
***Source: Whatcom County EMS*

COMMUNICATIONS

Incident Objective 6: Keep the public, stakeholders, and the media informed of response activities

The Whatcom Unified Command **Joint Information Center (JIC)** updates and maintains the Whatcom COVID-19 website as the central repository for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 for Whatcom County residents. Updates are continually made to report on current health data, government recommendations and orders, and media coverage. All information has been verified to come from reputable sources. The JIC coordinates with partner agencies throughout the State to maintain consistency when reporting information.

Local Information (Coordinated through the JIC):

- WUC Whatcom COVID-19 website: https://whatcomcovid.com/
- Whatcom County Health Department website: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/covid
- Whatcom County News Flash: www.co.whatcom.wa.us
- WUC Facebook
- WUC Twitter
- Whatcom County Health Department Facebook

State and Federal Information

- Governor Inslee's Proclamations:
- Washington State Department of Health provides guidance on wearing cloth face coverings
- Governor's phased approach
- Washington State face covering directive
- Washington State COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard

JIC Updates

- WCHD Website www.whatcomcounty.us/covid
  - News flashes
- Whatcom Unified Command website www.whatcomcovid.com
  - Responded to inquiries
  - News Flash: Health officer recommends distance learning for schools
- Social Media Posts
  - WCHD Facebook Updates
    - Funding for housing support is available
    - COVID-19 Survey
  - WUC Facebook Updates

Updates from Whatcom County Health Department Subject Matter Expert:
Astrid Newell, Quarantine, Isolation, Recovery, and Testing Team (QIRT)

- The QIRT's responsibilities include:
  - Responding to nurse consultation calls when people have questions about testing, symptoms, etc.
  - Providing support for people in Isolation or Quarantine:
    - Addresses if people have specific needs and connects them with resources
    - Connects people with the Byron Ave Isolation/Quarantine facility if they need to stay there
    - Supports people who are staying at the Byron Ave facility
  - Monitoring people who are in Isolation or Quarantine via a daily text or email (approximately 300 people per day)
    - If people in Quarantine develop symptoms; QIRT follows up with case investigation and helps facilitate testing
    - Provides a release letter for individuals who have finished isolating
  - One team member is primarily focused on supporting farmworker families

8-6-20
Local and State

- Bellingham Herald: Whatcom sees 16 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, state reports - 8-6-20
- Bellingham Herald: These Whatcom schools will follow health officer's recommendation for remote learning - 8-5-20
- Bellingham Herald: Eight gyms slapped with hefty fines for violating COVID-19 restrictions in Washington - 8-5-20
- Seattle Times: Coronavirus daily news updates, Aug. 6: What to know today about COVID-19 - 8-6-20
- Seattle Times: It's unsafe for most of Washington students to return to school buildings this fall, state says - 8-5-20
- Seattle PI: Study: How many students could arrive at school with COVID-19? - 8-6-20
- Seattle PI: 1.2 million seek jobless aid after $600 federal check ends - 8-6-20
- Seattle PI: Alaska Airlines: No mask, no travel, no exceptions - 8-5-20
- My Northwest: Virologist: Vaccine trials appear effective, but will be a while before public has access - 8-6-20
- Yakima Herald: New Yakima County COVID-19 cases increase by fewer than 30 - 8-6-20

National

- NPR: Most Teachers Concerned About In-Person School; 2 In 3 Want To Start The Year Online - 8-6-20
- NPR: As More Lawmakers Test Positive, Congress Gets A Tough Reminder Of Coronavirus Risk - 8-6-20
- New York Times: The unique U.S. failure to control the virus - 8-6-20
- New York Times: Even Asymptomatic People Carry the Coronavirus in High Amounts - 8-6-20
- Route Fifty: Trump Executive Order Aims to Make Some Pandemic-Induced Telehealth Expansions Permanent - 8-6-20
- Route Fifty: Poll: Majority of Americans Would Support Two-Week Lockdown - 8-5-20
- Reuters: Global recovery could be faster if COVID vaccine made available to all: WHO chief - 8-6-20
- AP News: Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine tests positive ahead of Trump visit - 8-6-20

Upcoming and Continuing JIC Priorities

- Continue with mask messaging and information.
- Work with COVID Employer Support Task Force to create content for the Resources for Businesses and Community Organizations page.
- Communication about Phase 2 and Safe Start.
- Help set expectations for progression of phased reopening.
- Continue to prioritize messaging based on current Incident Objectives.
- Work with Liaison to develop a plan for distribution of communication materials for community groups.
- Working on a robust, strategic communications plan incorporating an equity focus throughout our messaging.
- Working on increasing messaging for speakers of other languages, including Spanish.
- Greater outreach to farming communities.
- Increase messaging for young adults.
- Improve data reporting with additional information and supporting explanations.
- Communicate about future testing access.

WHATCOM UNIFIED COMMAND INFORMATION

INCIDENT OBJECTIVES: Operational Period 17

1. Anticipate and develop plans to address additional waves of COVID-19 infections.
2. Prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
3. Provide for the most vulnerable members of the community.
4. Ensure adequacy of First Responder/Healthcare personnel and equipment/supplies.
5. Support maintenance of Phase 2 status for Whatcom County.
6. Keep the public, stakeholders, and the media informed of response activities.
7. Manage a coordinated interagency response effort that reflects the makeup of Unified Command.

SOURCES & RELEVANT SITES

IAP Software
WADOH Daily Epi Report
WADOH Map: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3614241b1c2b4e519ae1cf52e2c3d560
Whatcom County Health Department http://www.whatcomcounty.us/3329/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19#case
Whatcom County EMS
Washington State Hospital Association- Hospital Supply Tracker
Whatcom County Health Department Situation Reports
Washington: https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus

British Columbia: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html
Alaska: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/monitoring.aspx
California: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx
Hawaii: https://hawaiicovid19.com/
Idaho: https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/
Oregon: https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19
CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html
Global: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

SECTION UPDATES

LOGISTICS

1. Continuing to provide support and supplies to Byron Avenue I/Q facility.
2. Continuing to reconfirm and validate previously identified I/Q facilities for potential future needs.
3. Continuing to research and compile sourcing options for PPE and connecting customers directly to distributors where feasible. Developing messaging for accessible messaging and supply list.
4. Continuing to interact with the state for meeting PPE requirements.
5. Continuing to support staffing for ongoing, weekly food delivery efforts.
6. Connecting long-term care facilities and nursing homes with PPE supplies.
7. Meeting with the Whatcom County Health Department to provide support and resources needed to establish the mobile COVID-19 testing program.

OPERATIONS

1. Supporting Thursday's scheduled food stocking efforts and providing traffic control during scheduled food distribution efforts.
2. Continuing operations of the Byron Avenue I/Q facility with the admittance of community members needing isolation/quarantine. Currently, two rooms are occupied.
3. Working towards making rooms at Byron Avenue I/Q facility operable at double capacity to increase the number of beds available for individuals.
4. Planning and preparing for upcoming Operational Period 18.

PLANNING

1. Continue to meet with the Healthcare Coalition to plan the development of a combined COVID-19 evaluation, testing, and medical surge facility.
2. Working with local and regional Healthcare Coalitions on surge capacity research to develop a medical surge plan.
3. Working with the Food Security Branch, the Bellingham Food Bank, and the Opportunity Council to transfer food distribution support by the end of August to a sustainable model provided by other community agencies.
4. Developing remobilization and transition to recovery plan.
5. Establishing administrative support and office space for technology/IT volunteers assisting with the soft launch of the Whatcom Health Department's mobile testing program.
6. Meeting with healthcare professionals to identify plans for developing a sustainable low-barrier COVID testing model in Whatcom County.
7. Preparing and finalizing the Incident Action Plan for the upcoming Operational Period.

REPORT PREPARED BY:	REPORT APPROVED BY:	DATE:	TIME:
Situation Unit	Incident Command	08/06/20	16:00