

# WHATCOM UNIFIED SITUATION REPORT



REPORT #: 20200812.1	DATE: 8/12/2020	TIME: 16:00
INCIDENT NAME: COVID-2019	OPERATIONAL PERIOD: 18	MISSION NUMBER: 20-0265

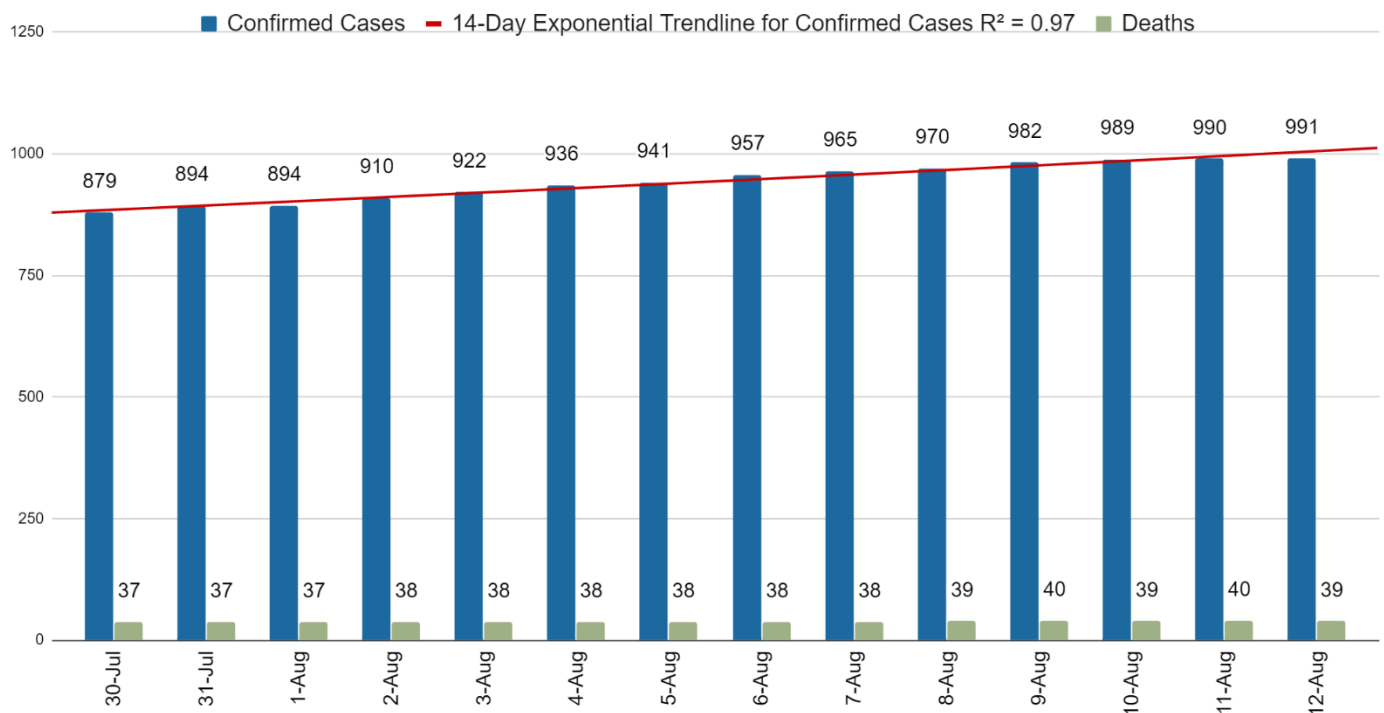
## WHATCOM UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND STATUS

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

ICS 202

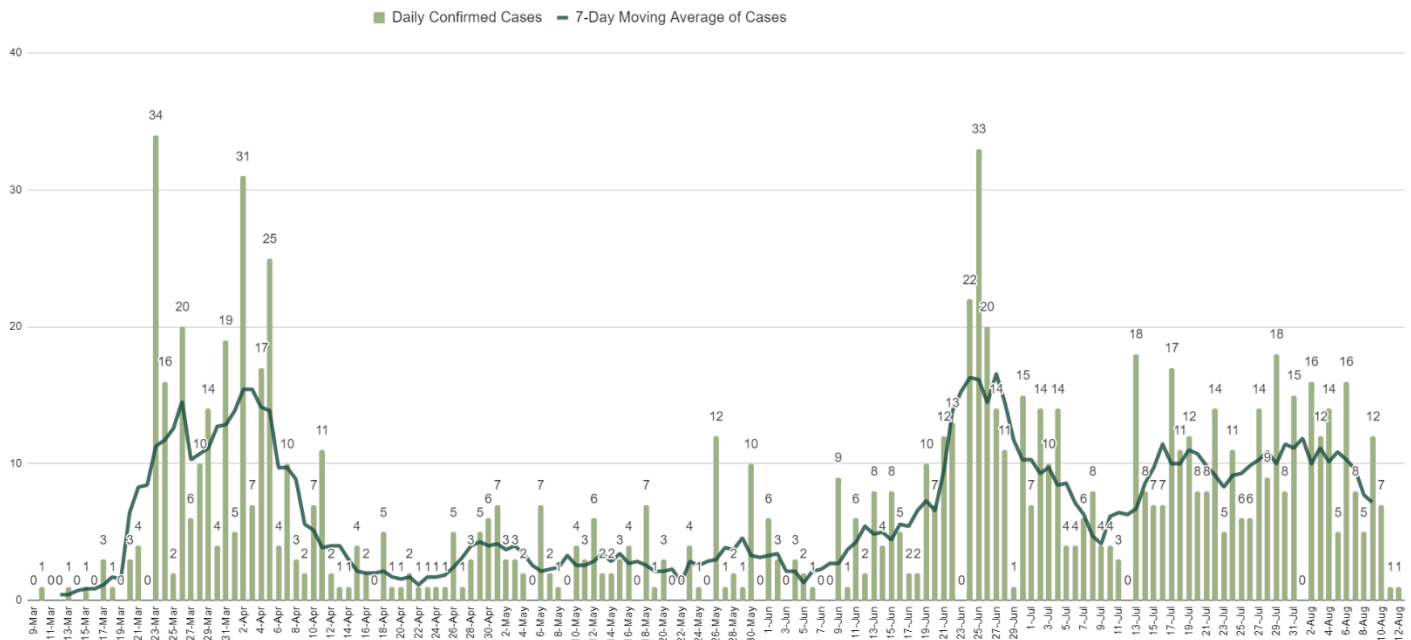
### 14-Day COVID-19 Confirmed Total Cases and Deaths, Whatcom County



DATE	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
08/12/2020*	991	39
08/11/2020*	990	40
08/10/2020	989	39
08/09/2020	982	40
08/08/2020	970	39

\*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 8/10/2020.

### COVID-19 Daily Confirmed Cases with 7-Day Moving Average, Whatcom County



### S, HOSPITALIZATIONS & DEATHS

Data as of August 10, 2020 11:59PM PT

#### COVID-19 in Whatcom County

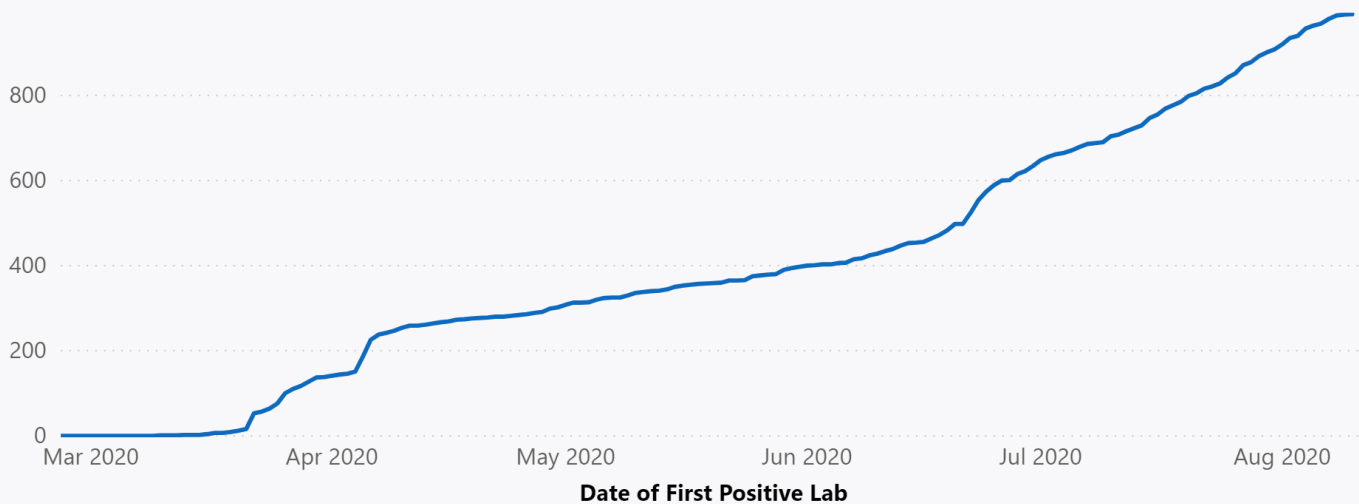
##### Cumulative Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

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.

[Learn More](#)

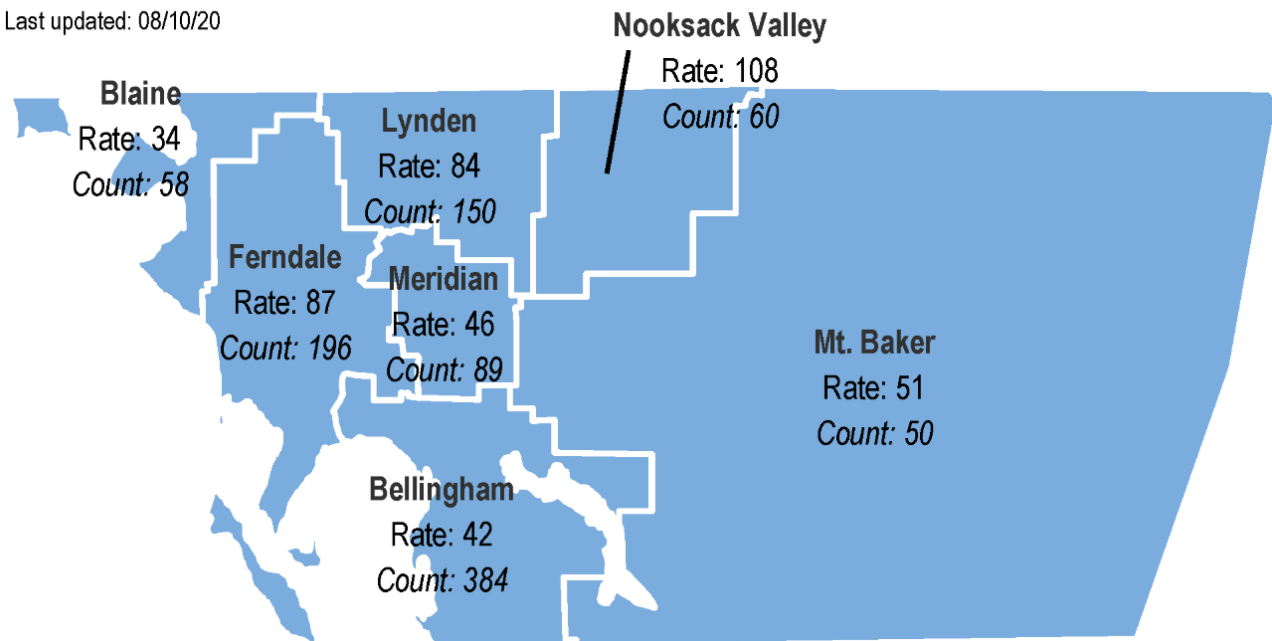


#### Cumulative Case Counts



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

Last updated: 08/10/20



**Rate:** Number of confirmed cases per 100,000 people for the past two weeks (7/26/20-8/8/20) \*See [Data Explainer](#) for info

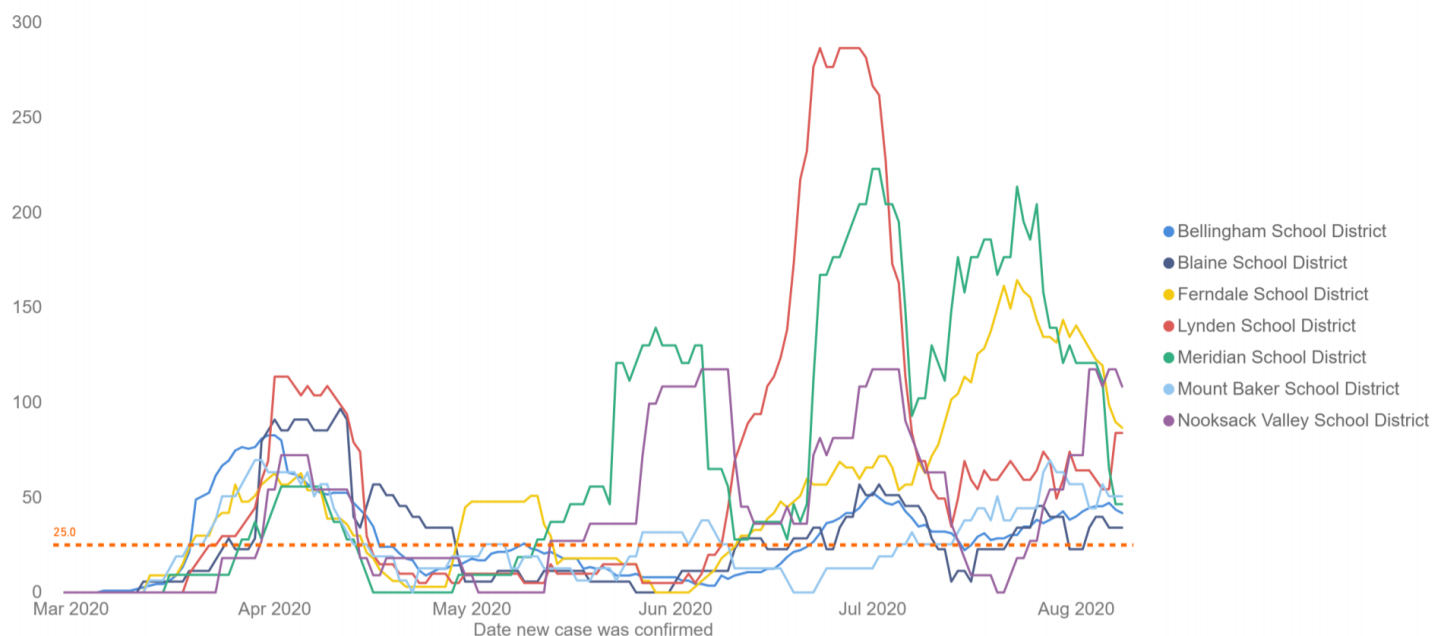
**State Goal:** Fewer than 25 cases per 100,000 people during the prior two weeks

**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 \*see [Data Explainer](#) or [FAQs](#)

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whatcom County			
Age 20-39	351	11	0
Age 40-59	233	23	1
Age 0-19	180	2	0
Age 60-79	140	27	7
Age 80+	85	18	31
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 8/12/2020:

- 0 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients
- 0 suspected COVID-19 patients
- 0 ventilators in use for COVID-19 positive patients
- 41 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

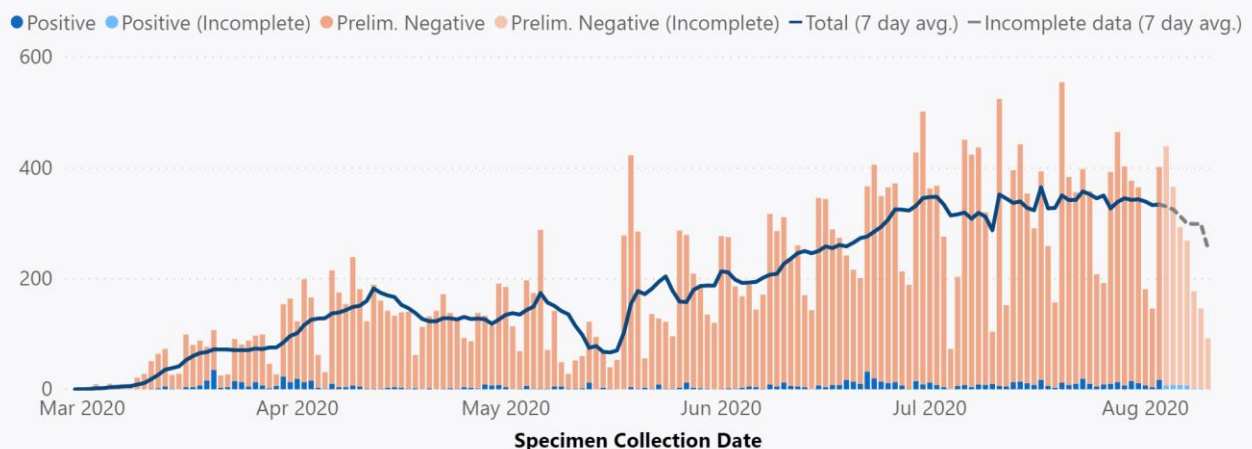
##### Number of Individuals Tested by Specimen Collection Date

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](#)



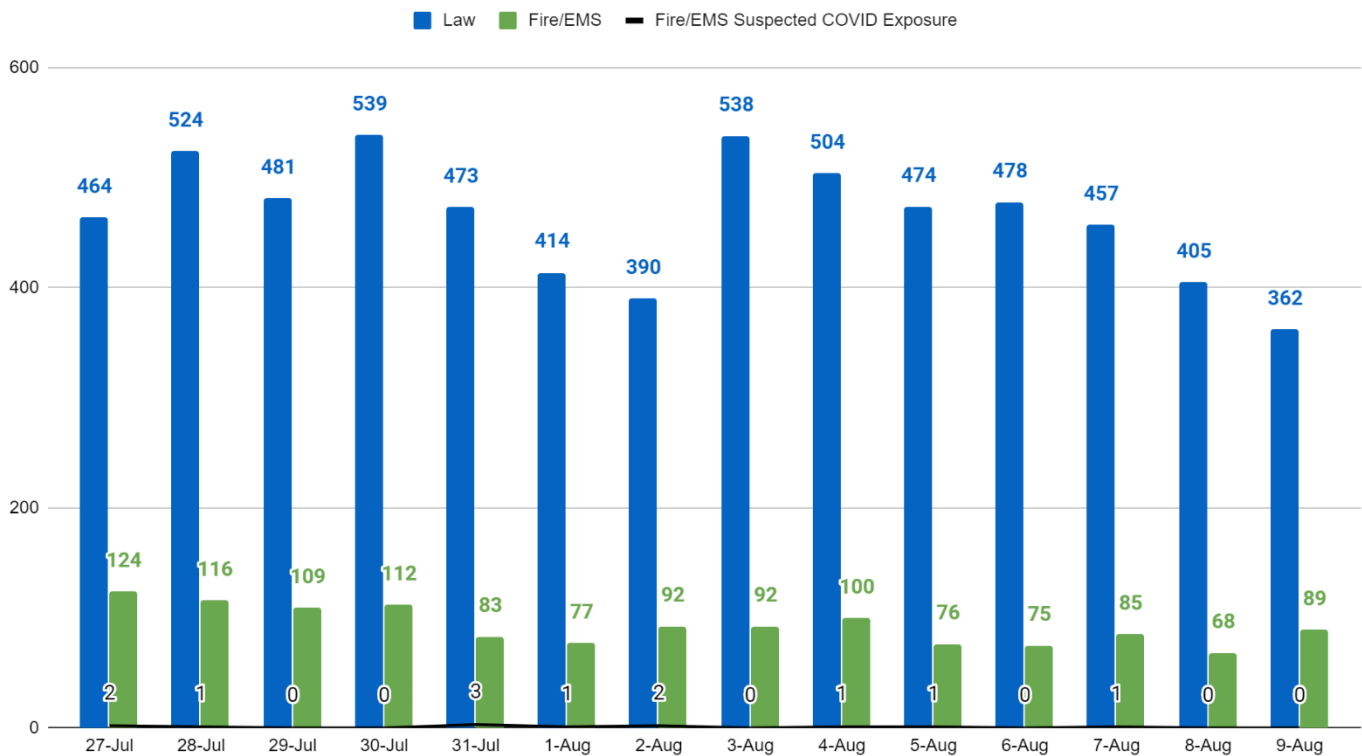
#### Number of Individuals Tested



**\*\*Source: Washington State Department of Health**

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/DataDashboard>

### 14-Day 911 Calls for Law and Fire/EMS with Fire/EMS Suspected COVID Exposure, Whatcom County



*\*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](http://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](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/covid)
  - News flashes
    - [COVID-19 Risk Decision-making for Older Adults](#)
- Whatcom Unified Command website [www.whatcomcovid.com](http://www.whatcomcovid.com)
  - Responded to inquiries
  - Posts
    - [How are you adjusting to COVID-19? Take this short survey.](#)
    - [Whatcom Unified Command COVID-19 response by the numbers](#)
- Social Media Posts
  - WCHD Facebook Updates
    - [Tools for navigating risks for older adults](#)
    - [Return to work guidance](#)
  - WUC Facebook Updates
    - [Low barrier COVID-19 testing is expanding](#)
- Other

#### Updates from Whatcom County Health Department – Operations (Cindy Hollinsworth)

- We are looking at increasing our Syringe Services program again, after the hours were previously reduced due to COVID-19.
- There is concern about how we will manage COVID-19 during the flu season this year.
- We continue to bring on and train Case and Contact Investigators (CCI) volunteers to help with our caseload.
- We plan to use CARES Act funds to hire more CCIs.

8-12-20

#### Local and State

- Bellingham Herald: [Inslee: \\$40 million Immigrant Relief Fund to help those who can't get stimulus money](#) - 8-12-20
- Bellingham Herald: [Pac-12 Conference cancels fall football season, all sports through end of 2020](#) - 8-12-20
- Bellingham Herald: [Whatcom County has one new COVID-19 case as death count fluctuates, state says Tuesday](#) - 8-12-20
- Bellingham Herald: [Last Whatcom public school announces plans for the start of school year amid COVID-19](#) - 8-12-20
- Spokesman Review: ['Great for working parents': Spokane district to offer distance learning at school sites](#) - 8-11-20
- Seattle Times: [Coronavirus daily news updates, Aug. 12: What to know today about COVID-19](#) - 8-12-20
- Seattle Times: ['A smoking gun': Infectious coronavirus retrieved from hospital air](#) - 8-11-20
- Seattle PI: [Coronavirus cases in Washington rising among older adults: report](#) - 8-11-20
- My Northwest: [UW modeler: US needs national COVID response to resume college sports](#) - 8-12-20

#### National

- NPR: [How The Coronavirus Has Upended College Admissions](#) - 8-12-20

- New York Times: [925 Quarantined for Covid. Is This a Successful School Reopening?](#) - 8-12-20
- New York Times: [Coronavirus Live Updates: Bars and Restaurants Become Hot Spots for U.S. Infections](#) - 8-12-20
- AP News: [Companies test antibody drugs to treat, prevent COVID-19](#) - 8-12-20
- Route Fifty: [Feds Will Reopen Schools on Native American Reservations](#) - 8-12-20
- Route Fifty: [Nurses and Doctors Sick With COVID Feel Pressured to Get Back to Work](#) - 8-12-20
- Reuters: [Fed policymakers say economic growth will be muted until virus contained](#) - 8-12-20
- The Guardian: [Ousted expert on Florida's Covid plan: 'They're not listening to the scientists'](#) - 8-12-20

#### 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 focused messaging for young adults.
- Improve data reporting with additional information and supporting explanations.
- Communicate about testing access.

## WHATCOM UNIFIED COMMAND INFORMATION

#### INCIDENT OBJECTIVES: Operational Period 18

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 on our supply list, when feasible.
4. Continuing to interact with the state for meeting PPE requirements.
5. Continuing to support staffing for ongoing, weekly food delivery efforts.
6. Providing resources, support, and volunteer staffing needed for the Whatcom County Health Department's mobile COVID-19 testing program.

### OPERATIONS

1. Supporting Wednesday's scheduled food stocking efforts and providing traffic control support during scheduled food distribution efforts.
2. Continuing operations of the Byron Avenue I/Q facility with the admittance of community members needing isolation/quarantine.
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. Working in coordination with the Whatcom County Health Department to support the mobile COVID-19 testing program.

### 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 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.
3. Working to amend site plans for the remote food distribution program.
4. Meeting with members of the Whatcom Health Department and local healthcare professionals to determine best utilization and dissemination of available COVID-19 data from PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center.

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**  
Situation Unit

**REPORT APPROVED BY:**  
Incident Command

**DATE:**  
08/12/20

**TIME:**  
16:00