

# WHATCOM UNIFIED SITUATION REPORT



<b>REPORT #:</b> 20200923.1	<b>DATE:</b> 9/23/2020	<b>TIME:</b> 16:00
<b>INCIDENT NAME:</b> COVID-2019	<b>OPERATIONAL PERIOD:</b> 21	<b>MISSION NUMBER:</b> 20-0265

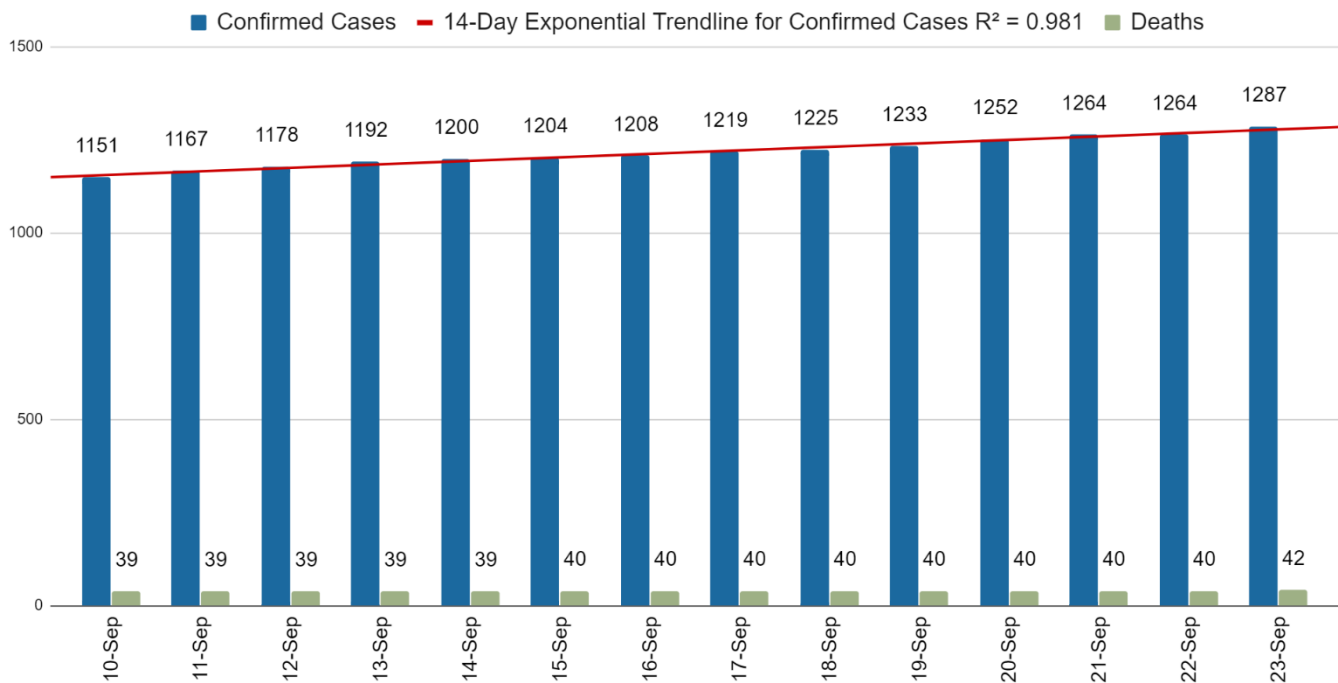
## WHATCOM UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND STATUS

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

ICS 202

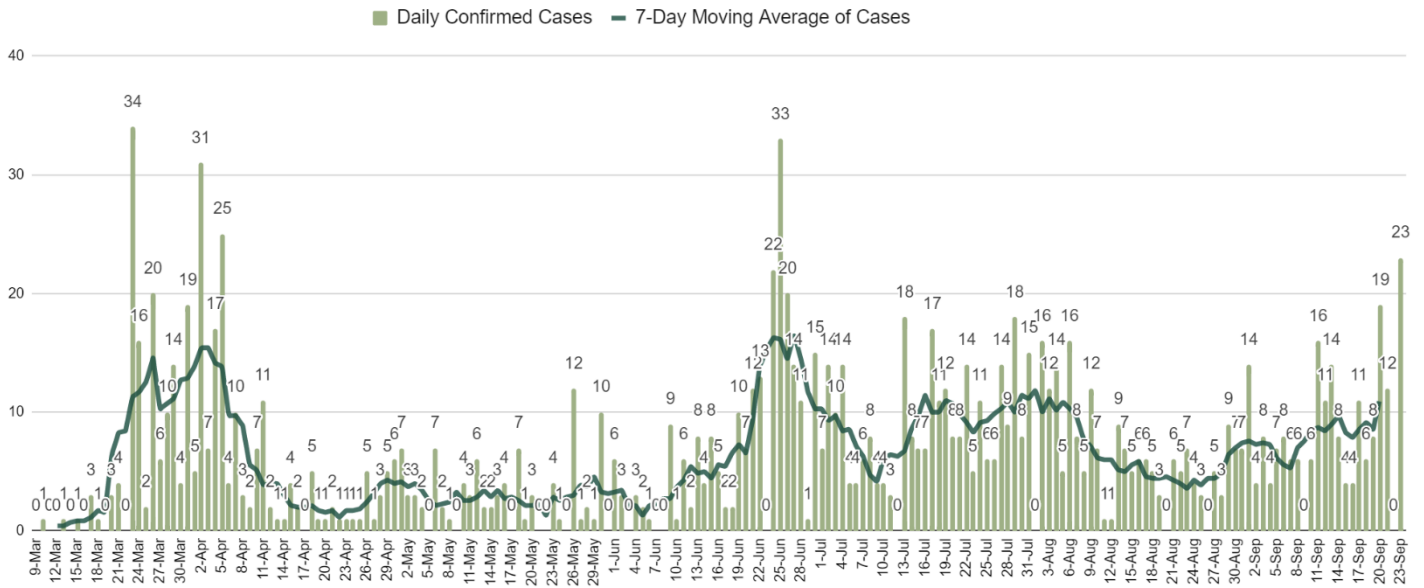
**14-Day COVID-19 Confirmed Total Cases and Deaths, Whatcom County**



DATE	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
<b>09/23/2020*</b>	1287	42
<b>09/22/2020*</b>	1264	40
<b>09/21/2020</b>	1264	40
<b>09/20/2020</b>	1252	40
<b>09/19/2020</b>	1233	40

\*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 9/21/2020.

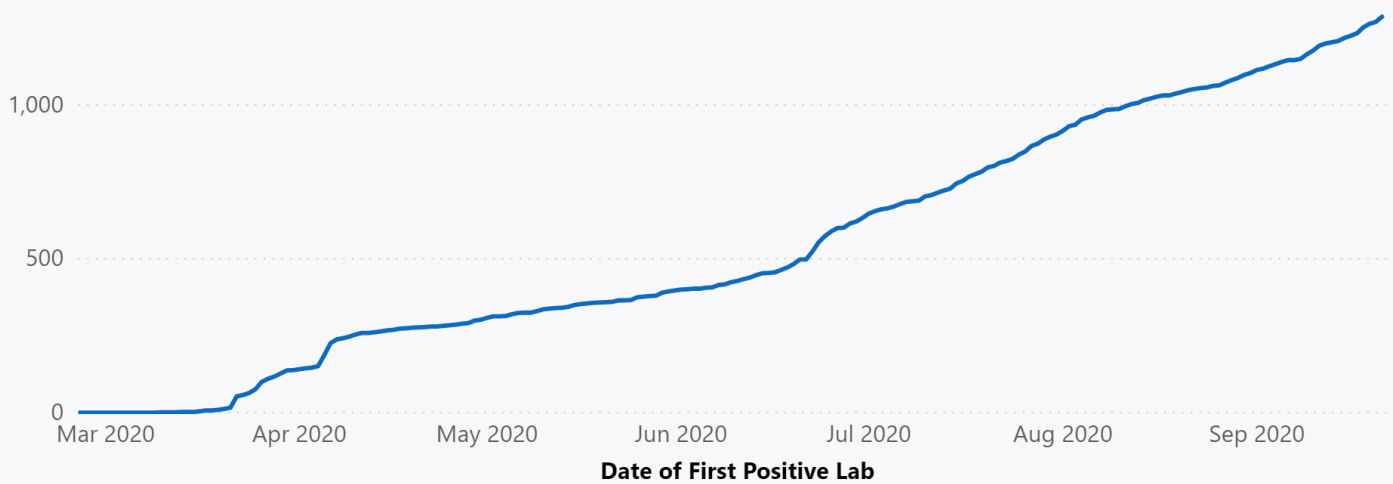
### COVID-19 Daily Confirmed Cases with 7-Day Moving Average, Whatcom County



### COVID-19 in Whatcom County Cumulative Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

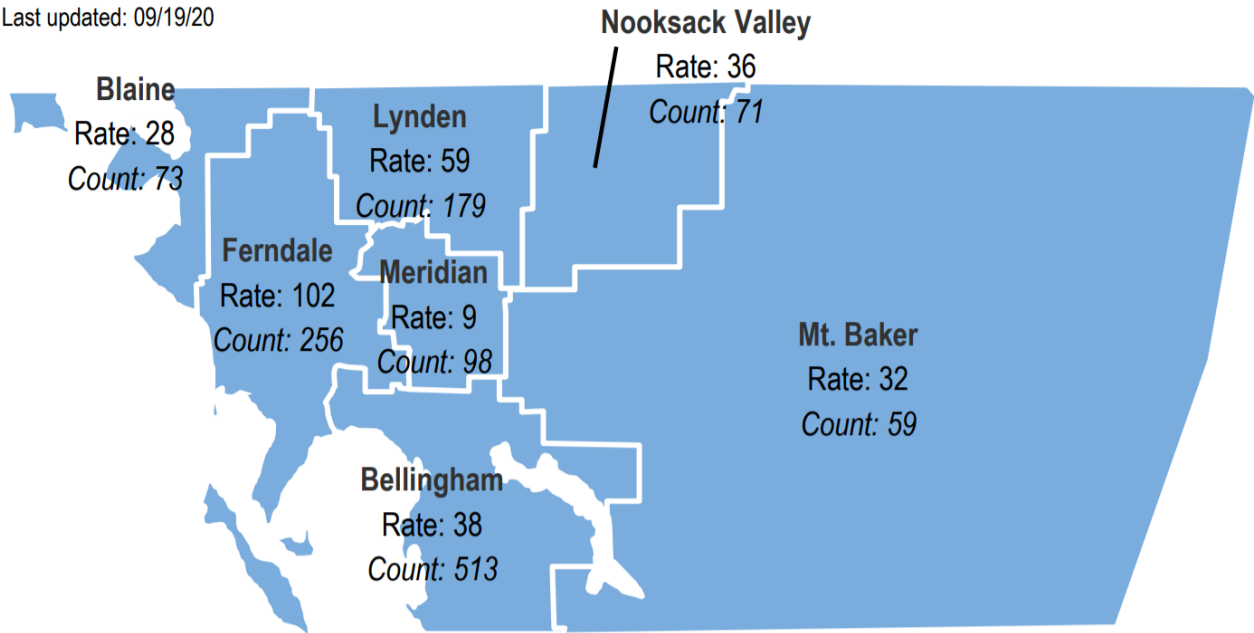
This chart includes the total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 since January 21, 2020. The chart begins on February 28, which is when community transmission was first reported in Washington State.

#### Cumulative Case Counts



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

Last updated: 09/19/20



**Rate:** Number of confirmed cases per 100,000 people for the past two weeks (9/6/20-9/19/20) \*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

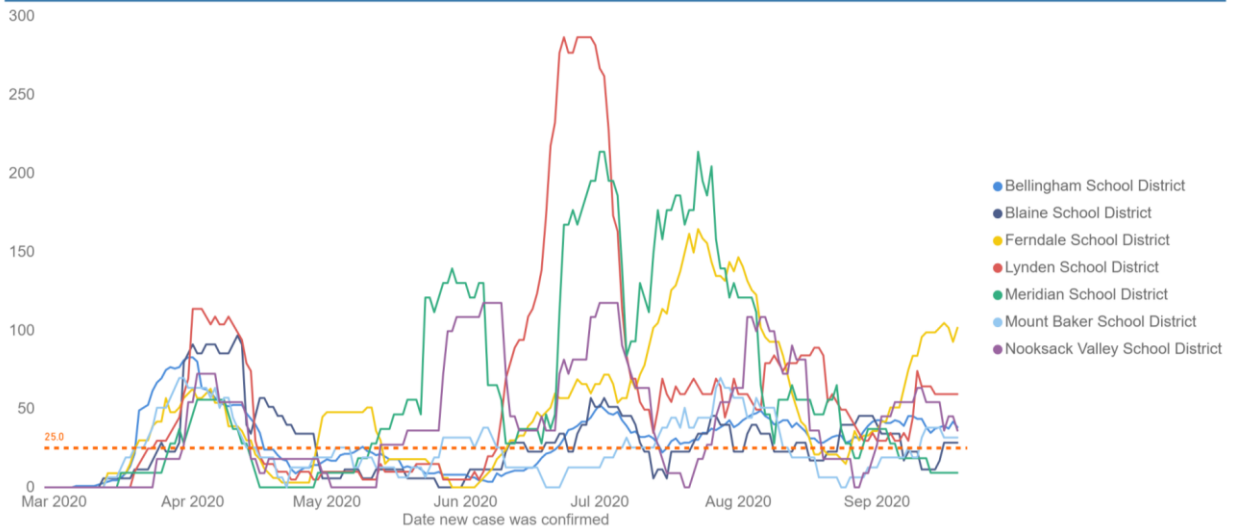
- Limited testing may cause mapping to misrepresent the geographic impact of COVID-19 illness in Whatcom County.
- When analyzing data geographically, school districts are used as community boundaries because people often identify their community in connection to schools and school districts.

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

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

Data updated through 09/19/2020

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."

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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 type="checkbox"/> Whatcom County			
Age 20-39	472	13	0
Age 40-59	297	31	2
Age 0-19	231	2	0
Age 60-79	173	32	7
Age 80+	91	19	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

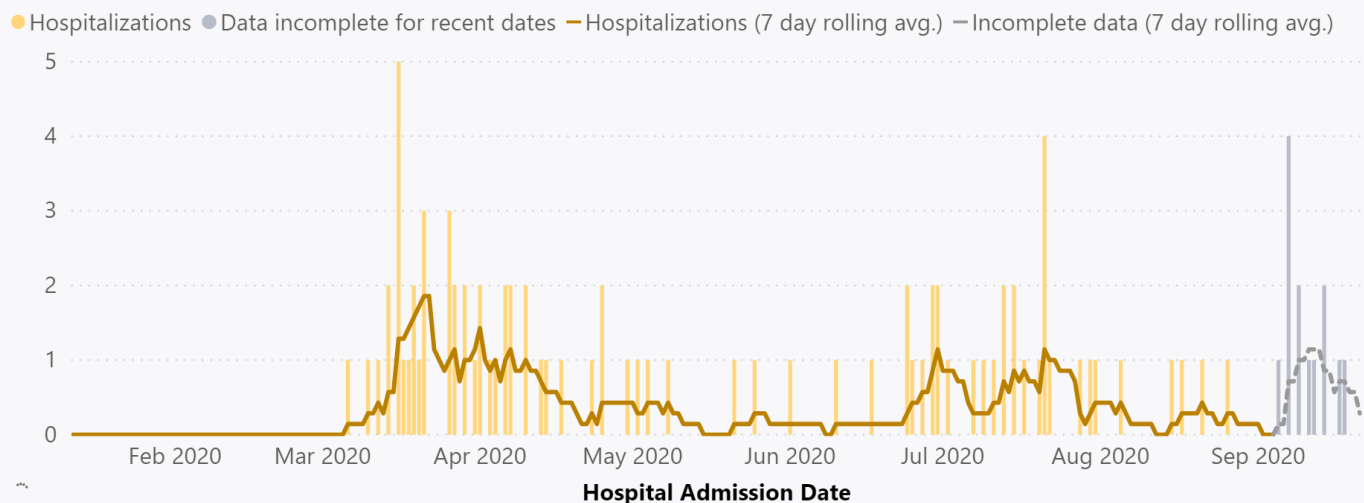
Updated as of 9/23/2020:

- 3 confirmed positive COVID-19 patients
- 0 suspected COVID-19 patients
- 0 ventilators in use for COVID-19 positive patients
- 40 ventilators available
- 42 surge/overflow beds available
- 0% surge/overflow beds occupied

\* 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 HOSPITALIZATION COUNTS

#### Hospitalizations Counts

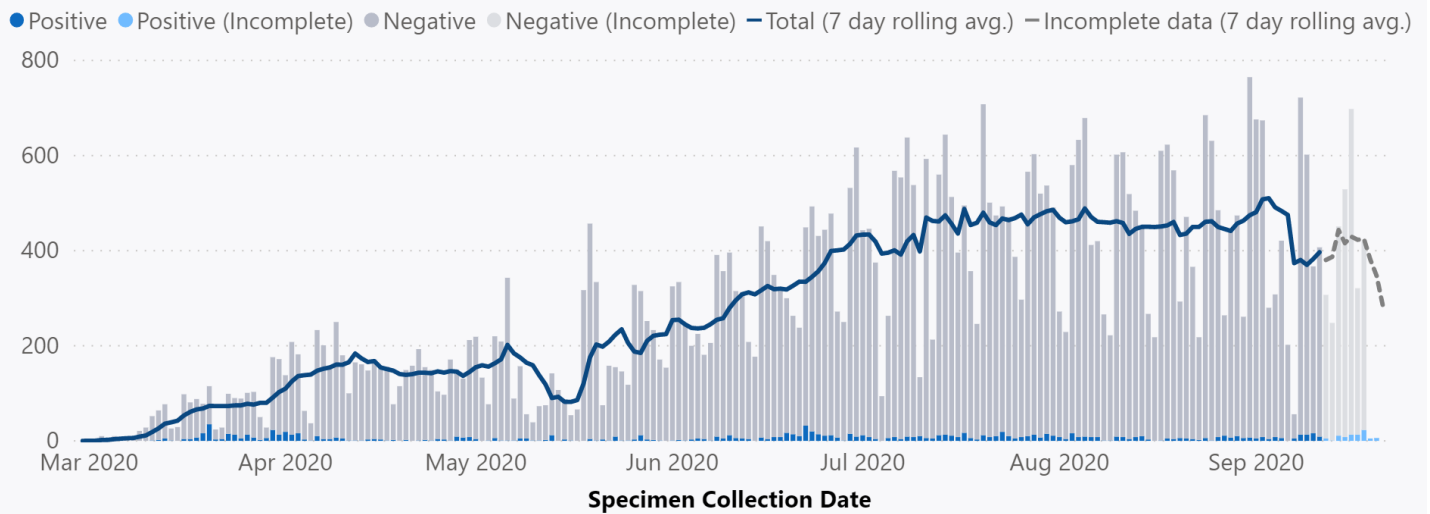


\*\*Source: Washington State Department of Health

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

## WHATCOM COUNTY-NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS TESTED

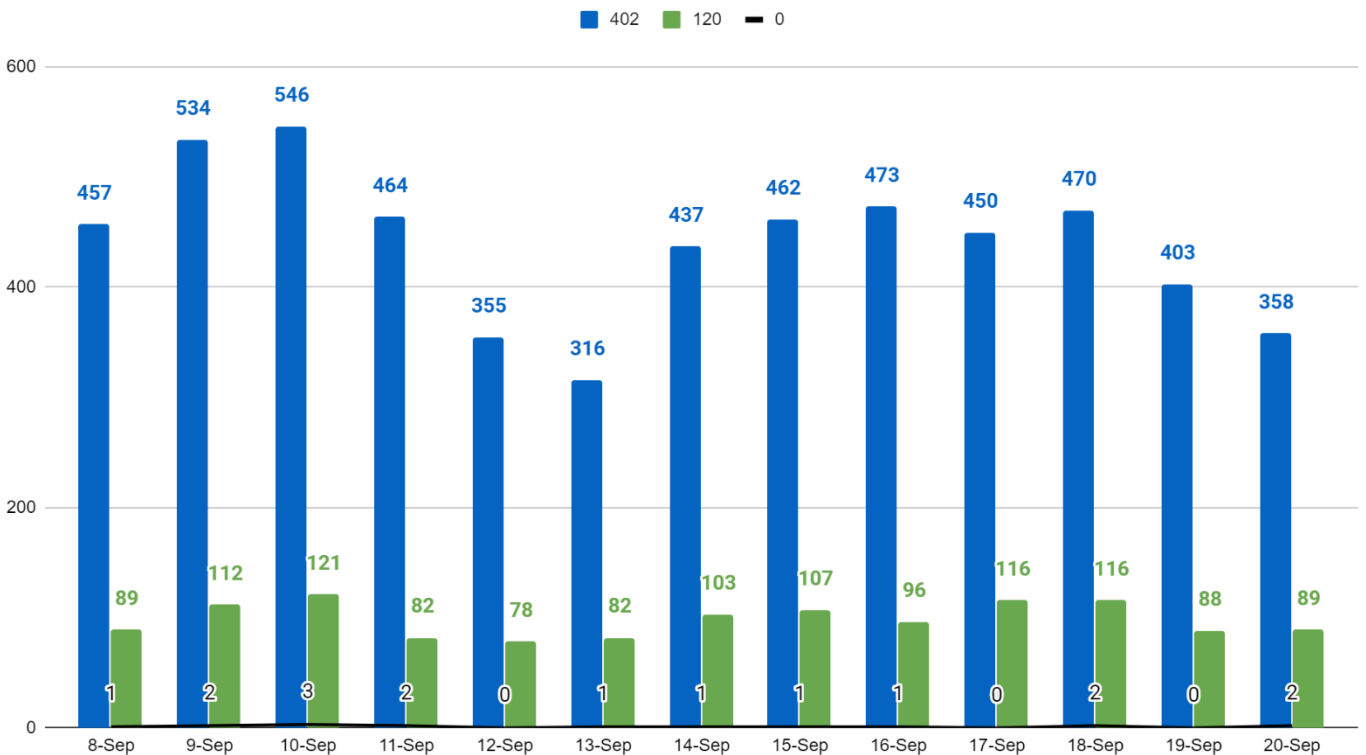
### Number of Tested



\*\*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)
- Whatcom Unified Command website [www.whatcomcovid.com](http://www.whatcomcovid.com)
  - Responded to inquiries and posted daily Status Report
- Social Media Posts
  - WCHD
    - [Keep it up, Whatcom](#)
    - Shared [Cases are rising](#) post from WUC
  - WUC
    - [Cases are rising](#)
- Other

### 9-23-20

#### Local and State

- Bellingham Herald: [Two new COVID-19 deaths reported in Whatcom County. Cases 'trending in the wrong direction'](#) - 9-23-20
- Bellingham Herald: [Washington state reports adjusted COVID-cases and deaths Tuesday](#) - 9-23-20
- KGMI: [Lynden, Blaine school districts welcome students back to the classroom](#) - 9-23-20
- Seattle Times: [Coronavirus daily news updates, Sept. 23: What to know today about COVID-19](#) - 9-23-20
- Seattle Times: [Celebrating the Jewish High Holidays with low risk in the time of the coronavirus](#) - 9-23-20
- Seattle Times: [Single-dose vaccine tested as US experts say no corners cut](#) - 9-23-20
- The Olympian: [3 new COVID-19 cases in Thurston County; Health Officer says school statement imminent](#) - 9-23-20
- My Northwest: [Virologist: 'Difficult to trust the CDC' after failures in communicating guidance](#) - 9-23-20

## National

- NPR: [Parents, Child Charged After 50-Student House Party Leads To Classes Moved Online](#) - 9-22-20
- NPR: [Why Tens Of Thousands Of People Are Key To Testing A COVID-19 Vaccine](#) - 9-23-20
- Washington Post: [Feared covid-19 outbreaks in schools have yet to arrive, early data shows](#) - 9-23-20
- Native News Online: [With Uptick in Covid-19 Cases, Navajo Nation Re-issues "Stay-at-Home" Order and 57-hour Weekend Lockdown](#) - 9-23-20
- The Conversation: [Pregnancy during a pandemic: The stress of COVID-19 on pregnant women and new mothers is showing](#) - 9-23-20
- The Guardian: ['I cry before work': US essential workers burned out amid pandemic](#) - 9-23-20
- Reuters: [CDC chief expects most Americans to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by July: hearing](#) - 9-23-20
- Route Fifty: [Contact Tracing in Two North Carolina Counties Shows Difficulty of Reaching Patients](#) - 9-23-20

## National

- NPR: [CDC Publishes — Then Withdraws — Guidance On Aerosol Spread Of Coronavirus](#) - 9-21-20
- NPR: [Rural Hospitals Teeter On Financial Cliff As COVID-19 Medicare Loans Come Due](#) - 9-21-20
- New York Times: [U.S. Virus Death Toll Passes 200,000; Rising Cases Suggest New Phase](#) - 9-22-20
- New York Times: [What We Know About Coronavirus Cases in K-12 Schools So Far](#) - 9-22-20
- Reuters: [CDC asks Americans to avoid trick-or-treating, indoor Halloween parties](#) - 9-22-20
- Reuters: [Airlines call for COVID-19 tests before all international flights](#) - 9-22-20
- Route Fifty: [California's Deadliest Spring in 20 Years Suggests Covid Undercount](#) - 9-22-20
- Fox News: [Researchers hypothesize coronavirus immunity if you have been exposed to this](#) - 9-22-20

## Upcoming and Continuing JIC Priorities

- Continue with [mask messaging and information](#).
- Communicate about [Phase 2 and Safe Start](#).
- Communicate about flu vaccines.
- Communicate about upcoming holidays.
- Help set expectations for progression of phased reopening.
- Continue to prioritize messaging based on current Incident Objectives.
- Work to distribute communication materials for community groups.
- Increase messaging for Spanish-speakers.
- Increase messaging for young adults including via social marketing.
- Increase outreach to farming and farmworker communities.
- Communicate about testing access.
- Increase outreach to faith-based communities.
- Support WUC partnership work, including Border Task Force, small city Mayors meetings, etc.

## WHATCOM UNIFIED COMMAND INFORMATION

### INCIDENT OBJECTIVES: Operational Period 21

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://hawaii-covid19.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. Provide support and supplies to Byron Avenue I/Q facility through utilizing an inventory and monitoring system to streamline ordering of consumable supplies.
2. Continue to update sourcing options for PPE and connecting customers directly to distributors on our supply list, when feasible.
3. Continue to interact with the State for meeting PPE requirements.
4. Support volunteer staffing for ongoing, weekly food distribution efforts.
5. Provide resources, support, and volunteer staffing needed for the Whatcom County low barrier COVID-19 mobile testing program.
6. Finalize distribution plans for tomorrow's delivery of State-provided children's cloth face masks to each school district in Whatcom County.
7. Research and visit possible facilities and sites to be utilized for outdoor WUC operations during inclement weather.

### OPERATIONS

1. Support Wednesday's scheduled food stocking efforts and provide traffic control support during food distribution operations.
2. Continue operations of the Byron Avenue I/Q facility with the admittance of community members needing isolation/quarantine.
3. Refine the operations plan for Whatcom County's low barrier COVID-19 mobile testing program.
4. Partnering with the Whatcom County Health Department to support the mobile COVID-19 testing program.

### PLANNING

1. Continue to coordinate with local and regional healthcare agencies for planning for COVID-19 medical surge and medical isolation/quarantine facilities.
2. Assist food security community partner agencies in transitioning their food distribution programs to self-supported, sustainable operations.
3. Provide feedback on the operations plan submitted for Whatcom County's low barrier COVID-19 mobile testing program.
4. Researching and developing inclement weather plans for all outdoor WUC operations.

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**  
Situation Unit

**REPORT APPROVED BY:**  
Incident Command

**DATE:**  
09/23/20

**TIME:**  
16:00