

# COVID-19

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Snohomish County Joint Press Conference being held on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30am

## **NEW SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT BLOG: COVID-19 AND CONTACT TRACING**

SHD blog post provides info about disease investigation contact tracing.

## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING**

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### **Media Advisory: Snohomish County Joint Press Conference Tomorrow (Friday, May 22) at 9:30 A.M.**

#### **When**

9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., Friday, May 22, 2020

#### **What**

Snohomish County's Joint Information Center (JIC) will provide a media availability with county leaders to address the county's response to COVID-19.

#### **Who**

Dave Somers, Executive, Snohomish County  
Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer, Snohomish Health District

The video will be posted at noon the same day and available for viewing at

<https://www.snohd.org/495/COVID-19-General-Information>

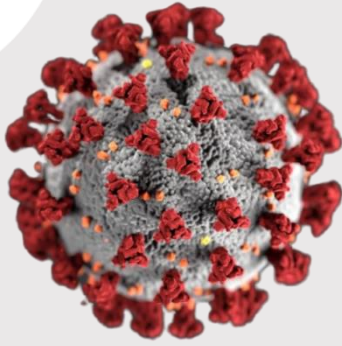
### **New SHD Blog Post: COVID-19 and Contact Tracing**

Just as [testing is a key piece](#) of the long-term response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), disease investigation and contact tracing are crucial, as well.

These topics have generated a number of questions, as well as concerns and rumors. SHD aims to address some of those here:

- What is disease investigation and contact tracing?
- When is the Snohomish Health District starting contact tracing?
- But COVID-19 is different.
- So how many contact tracers do you need?
- What happens if I test positive?
- What happens if I'm a close contact of a case?
- Let's talk about what doesn't happen.
- How can I help with contact tracing?

For more information please read SHD's [blog post](#) and [Tweet](#).



# COVID-19

**DOH LAUNCHES SPANISH BLOG**

**SNOCO DEM HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 4M PIECES OF PPE SINCE MARCH**

**SnoHD**  
@SnoHD

Disease investigation and contact tracing are crucial pieces of the long-term response to COVID-19.

These topics have generated a number of questions, as well as concerns and rumors. We address some of those in our latest blog update: [snohd.org/Blog.aspx?IID=...](https://www.snohd.org/Blog.aspx?IID=...)

**COVID-19 & Contact Tracing: May 20, 2020**

Our latest blog post talks about:

- What is disease investigation and contact tracing?
- How many contact tracers are needed?
- How can I help with contact tracing?
- What happens if I test positive?
- What happens if I'm a close contact of a confirmed case?
- What doesn't happen in contact tracing.

Read more at [www.snohd.org/ncov2019](http://www.snohd.org/ncov2019) or [www.snohd.org/PublicHealthEssentials](http://www.snohd.org/PublicHealthEssentials)

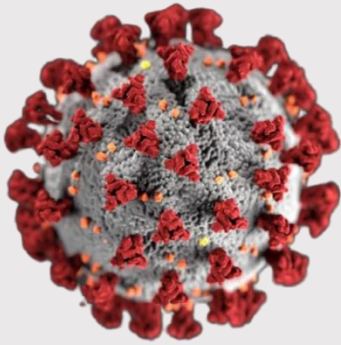
**SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT**  
WWW.SNOHD.ORG

## **DOH Spanish Blog: BienestarWA**

The Washington State Department of Health has a Spanish language blog, BienestarWA, with updates and information about COVID-19. The blog is available at <https://medium.com/bienestarwa>. Some topics include how to encourage children to wear face covers, case investigation and contact tracing, and the LGBTQ community and coronavirus.

## **Snohomish County DEM has Distributed More than 4M Pieces of PPE Since March**

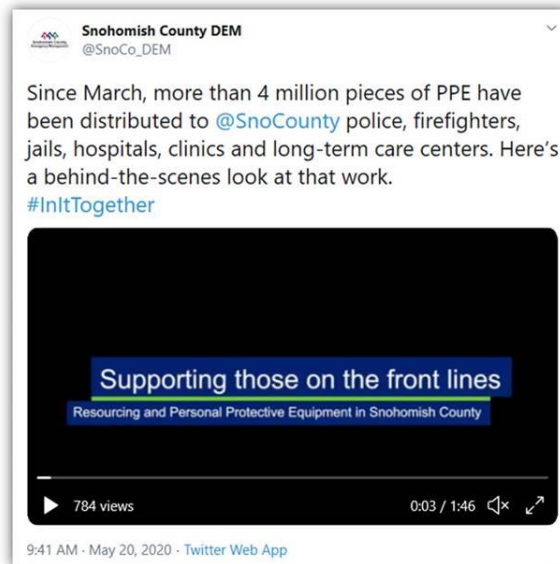
Take a look at the [behind-the-scenes](#) work to resource and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) in Snohomish County.



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## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS UP 29% FROM THE WEEK BEFORE

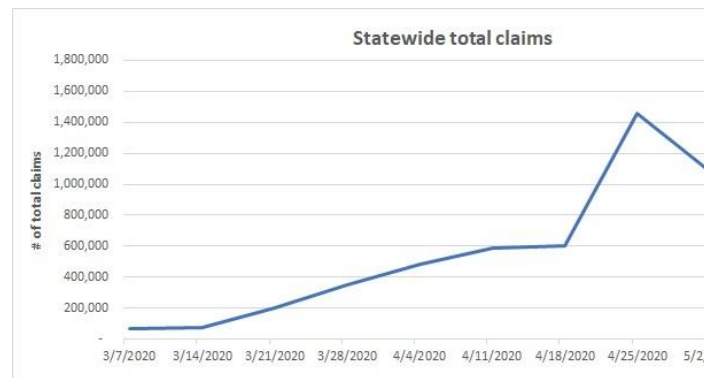
Employment Security see rise in claims and amounts paid out each week.



## New Claims for Unemployment Benefits in Snohomish County up 29% from the Week Before

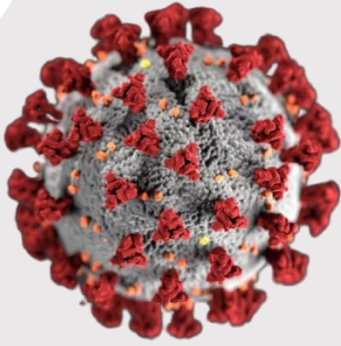
During the week of May 10-16, there were 1,670,580 total claims for unemployment benefits filed by Washingtonians, according to the Employment Security Department (ESD). Total claims for unemployment benefits in the State increased almost 28 percent from the previous week.

Note: An individual can file more than one claim, so the number of claims does not equate to individuals – that number is below.



In addition, during the week of May 10-16, ESD paid out over \$1.01 billion (an increase of almost \$256 million from the previous week) to a total of 565,764 individuals (an increase of 28,450 from the previous week).

50 percent of initial regular unemployment claims during the week of May 10-16 in the State were management occupations.



# COVID-19

## EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ANNOUNCES PAYMENT DELAY

Fraud and theft prevention measures will require a brief delay for claimants.

Since the week ending March 7 when COVID-19 job losses began:

- A total of 1,106,684 distinct individuals have filed for unemployment benefits
- ESD has paid out nearly \$3.8 billion in benefits to Washingtonians
- 768,217 individuals who have filed an initial claim have been paid

Snohomish County: Initial claims filed increased from 11,677 to 15,028 up 29 percent from the week before.

ESD will send out the next weekly new claims press release on Thursday, May 28 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time.

For more information please read ESD's [news release](#).

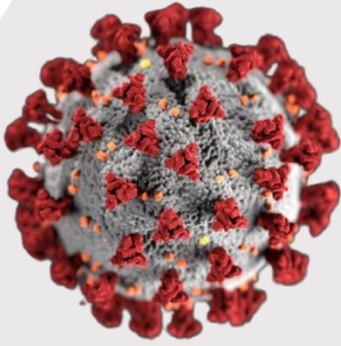
### **ESD Announces All Unemployment Payments to be Delayed by Several Days**

Washington State's Employment Security Department (ESD) announced that claimants should expect all payments to be delayed by several days. This extra time will allow ESD to root out fraud and prevent theft, so they can protect legitimate claimants and get payments into the hands of those who deserve them. In addition, ESD is making changes that will require both new and some existing claimants to verify their identities or provide more information. In some cases, payments can be further delayed while ESD's collect or verify this additional information.

We apologize for the hardship, confusion or delay this is causing. We're working quickly to address any issues for legitimate claimants. We will share more information on our website and social media channels soon. Please do not call the claims center if your payment is delayed.

ESD has not experienced a data breach of our system and no data has been taken from our agency. ESD is evaluating their processes and systems to ensure they can pay benefits as quickly as possible to those who are qualified, while protecting claimants and Washington taxpayers from wrongdoing.

For more information please read ESD's [statement](#) and [Tweet](#).



# COVID-19

## ESD INFO (CONT'D)

### ESD CREATES RULE FOR SUSPECTED FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

Emergency rules hope to weed out fraudulent claims and safeguard state resources.

### DEPT OF COMMERCE PROVIDES HUB FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Will provide centralized info for funding sources



## ESD Creates Emergency Rule for Suspected Fraudulent Claims

With the increase in the number of unemployment benefit claims during the COVID-19 outbreak, there has also been an increase in fraudulent claims across both the nation and the state. In order to combat the increase in fraudulent claims and to better safeguard state resources, the Department is adopting [emergency rules](#) that establish procedures for claims that are suspected to be fraudulent.

[CR 103E](#) (Suspected Fraudulent Claims) | [Emergency rules \(5/20/2020\)](#)

The emergency rule provides details for the Employment Security Department's procedures when claims are suspected to be fraudulent. For more information about the Department's response to COVID-19, please review the agency's COVID-19 [web page](#). For more information on all of ESD's rulemaking activities, please visit their [agency rulemaking homepage](#).

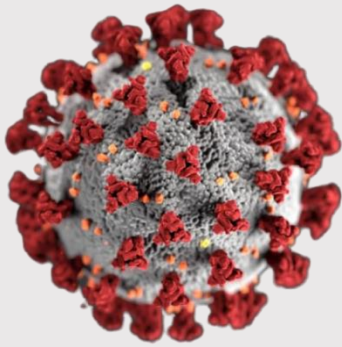
## Department of Commerce Provides Hub for Federal and State Funds for Local Governments

Washington State Department of Commerce is supporting cities and counties by providing information about federal and state funds as they become available to communities.

Commerce is now in the process of contracting with local governments to receive several funding opportunities through the state's allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") funds: the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for Local Governments; and the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Funds (CDBG-CV).

Moving these critical dollars is a priority so communities can cover critical expenses arising from the COVID-19 emergency. For more information please visit Department of Commerce's [hub](#).





# COVID-19

## TSA ADJUSTS SCREENING PROCESS

Includes social distancing and facial covering advisories.

## TULALIP CASINO REOPENS MAY 26

States daily deep cleaning and sanitation processes will be in place



## TSA Adjusts Security Screening Process

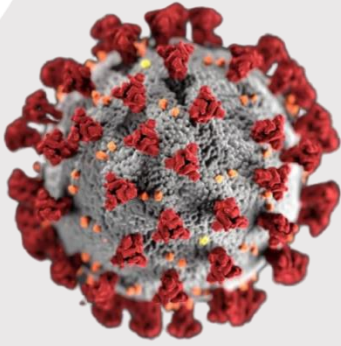
The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that they have implemented changes to the security screening process that reduce the potential for cross-contamination at the security checkpoint in an effort to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. TSA has already begun implementation of these changes – with more to be implemented at airport checkpoints nationwide by mid-June.

For more information please read TSA's [news release](#).



## Tulalip Resort Casino Reopens May 26

Tulalip Resort Casino announced they will reopen Tuesday, May 26 at noon. Daily deep cleaning procedures will be increased on the casino floor, hotel, and throughout the entire property. Hand sanitizer stations are readily available and the casino will be enforcing social distancing by limiting the number of guests. For more information on how Tulalip Resort Casino is following CDC guidelines, please visit their [webpage](#).



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## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD ENCOURAGES SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The announcement was made earlier today.

## **MEMORIAL DAY IS MONDAY**

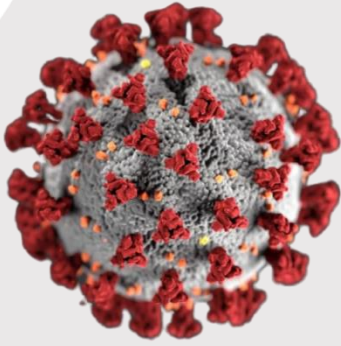
## Snohomish County PUD Encourages Safety



## Reminder: Memorial Day is Monday

Learn more about the history of [Memorial Day](#).





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**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS  
ENCOURAGES SAFETY**

**EDMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY, EXTRA  
MEALS PROVIDED ON 5/22**

**SUPPORT THE LYNNWOOD FOOD  
BANK THROUGH DRIVE UP  
DONATIONS**

## Snohomish County Parks Reminds the Community to Recreate Responsibly



### Edmonds School District's Grab-and-Go Closed Memorial Day, Extra Meals Provided Friday

The Edmonds School District's Grab-and-Go Meal locations will be closed Monday, May 25, in honor of Memorial Day. However, extra meals will be provided Friday in advance to feed students through the holiday.

Meal kits handed out Friday, May 23, will include four breakfast and lunch meals.

For more information about the Edmond's School District's Grab-and-Go Meal program, click [here](#).

### Support the Lynnwood Food Bank's Drive Through Food Drive: Saturday, May 23

Help support the amazing work of the Lynnwood Food Bank who is supporting families, children, seniors, and adults throughout our community during these difficult times. Ideas for donations: pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, tomato sauce/ spaghetti sauce (canned please), canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soup, pancake mix (add water type), oats, cereal, hamburger helper, side dishes, international foods cooking basics, baking basics, gluten free items, sugar free items. Cash donations are used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs and dairy.

Food Distribution Days at the Lynnwood Food Bank:  
Wednesdays 11:00am - 5:00pm, Fridays 10:00am - 1:00pm

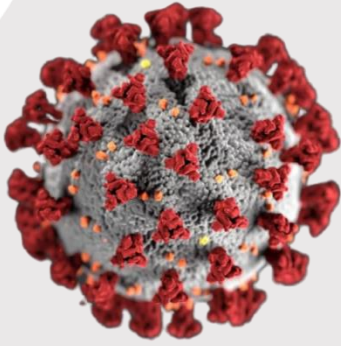
[www.LynnwoodFoodBank.org](http://www.LynnwoodFoodBank.org)

425-754-1635

[www.Facebook.com/LynnwoodFoodBank](https://www.Facebook.com/LynnwoodFoodBank)







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**DENTAL VAN AT LYNNWOOD FOOD BANK ON THURSDAYS**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY APPROVES BUSINESS RELIEF GRANTS**

## **Dental Van at the Lynnwood Food Bank: Thursdays 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

The Dental Van will be at the Lynnwood Food Bank (5320 176<sup>th</sup> st) every Thursday through the end of June between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. This is a first-come, first-served clinic with no appointments. For more information please read the [Facebook post](#).

## **Snohomish County Approves Business Relief Grants**

*Small Business Relief, Recovery and Resiliency Grants and First in Flight Fund Would Provide Much Needed Assistance*

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., May 21, 2020 – Today, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers thanked the Snohomish County Council for the approval of two new grant programs for businesses, allowing the application process to open. The two grant programs include: a Small Business Relief, Recovery, and Resiliency (R3) Grant Program; and the First in Flight Fund for Paine Field Airport tenants impacted by COVID-19 and other aerospace businesses in Snohomish County. These grant programs are key parts of the relief and recovery actions Snohomish County is taking to help businesses impacted by the pandemic.

These grant programs were part of the package of COVID-19 responses proposed by Executive Somers and funded by CARES Act resources. That package includes: \$55 million for Public Health and Emergency response activities, including PPE; \$37 million for economic stabilization; \$25 million for human/social services and housing; \$6 million for essential government services; and \$20 million for emergency contingencies. Today, the Council approved the majority of the package.

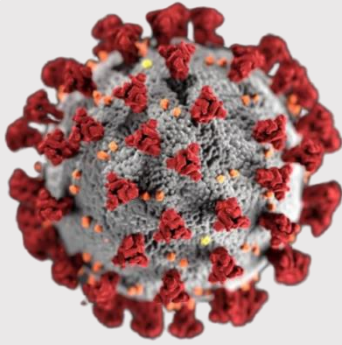
The two grant programs approved today include:

### **Snohomish County Small Business Relief, Recovery, and Resiliency (R3) Grant Program**

The application process for the R3 Grant Program is now open. Applicants can visit <http://www.workforcesnohomish.org> for details and application materials. It is anticipated that it will take most businesses less than 30 minutes to apply. It is also anticipated awards will be made within five weeks of application. Grants in amounts up to \$25,000 will be awarded to qualifying businesses. Businesses applying for grants under this program must:

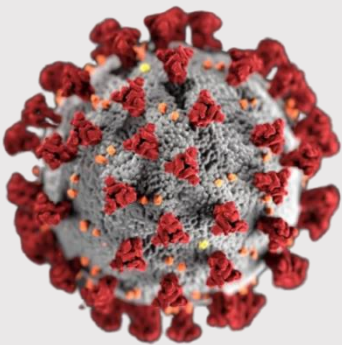
- Be licensed to do business in the State of Washington.
- Be a business physically located in Snohomish County.
- Have 20 or fewer employees (including the business owner/worker).
- Be in operation for one or more years.





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**FIRST IN FLIGHT FUND  
APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**



- Certify at least a 25% reduction in revenue attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Able to demonstrate that the business was a going concern before March 23, 2020.

Economic and unemployment data for Snohomish County provides insight about our hardest hit businesses. The focus of this grant program is on small businesses that are critical to supporting our community's broad-based recovery. Priority will be given to dining, retail, hospitality, arts and entertainment, and service sector establishments. Minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

Funding is intended to support business sustainability through the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds received must be used to cover expenses that have not been previously accounted for and are incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

## **First in Flight Fund**

As the County's economic engine, Paine Field accounts for nearly \$60 billion in annual economic impact and has a direct and indirect employment of over 148,000 workers. The First in Flight Fund is designed to assist tenants at the airport, help other Snohomish County aerospace businesses sustain operations, keep local residents employed, and support the County's overall recovery efforts. Grants in amounts up to \$1 Million will be awarded to qualifying businesses.

The application process is now open. Interested businesses should visit <http://www.workforcesnohomish.org> for details of the grant program and application materials. It is anticipated that it will take most businesses less than 30 minutes to apply. Awards are expected to be made within five weeks of application. Businesses applying for grants under this program must:

- Be a current Snohomish County Airport tenant or aerospace business and have employees on-site or in Snohomish County as of March 1, 2020.
- Meet all conditions of the Coronavirus Relief Fund CARES Act support received by Snohomish County.
- Be a small business.
- Be in business continuously since March 23, 2019.

The focus of the First in Flight Fund will be on aerospace and aviation businesses that are critical to supporting Snohomish County's recovery. Funding is intended to support business sustainability through the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds must be used to cover expenses that have not been previously accounted for and are incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. Examples of fund use include: employee payroll, loss of income or increased expenditures directly related to COVID19, and loan/bond debt service for real property. Additional information and

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## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY APPROPRIATES \$73M IN CARES ACT RELIEF FUNDS**

guidance will be in the application. Minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

Applications that are not selected will be kept on file for consideration should additional funds become available.

These proposed programs add to the actions Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers has implemented to support businesses and workers, including:

- Launch of a Blue Ribbon Economic and Workforce Recovery Taskforce and District Advisory Groups
- Creation of the Office of Economic Recovery and Resiliency
- Establishment of a Response Fund with the Community Foundation of Snohomish County and local partners
- Extension of a Deadline for Individual Property Taxpayers with County Treasurer Brian Sullivan

The County anticipates announcing a relief program for Snohomish County private non-profit organizations later this month.

Application materials for both grant programs are available at <http://www.workforcesnohomish.org>. Questions about the application should be directed to Workforce Snohomish at [snocogrant@workforcesnohomish.org](mailto:snocogrant@workforcesnohomish.org).

For more general information, please go to <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/5600/COVID-19Business-Recovery>, the County's comprehensive page for residents and small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

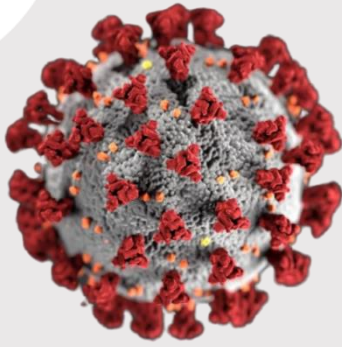
For more information please read Snohomish County's [news release](#).

### **Snohomish County Council Appropriates \$73M of CARES Act Relief Funds**

After a series of special meetings between the Snohomish County Council, County Executive Dave Somers, department directors, and staff regarding the allocation of Federal CARES Act Funds, the Snohomish County Council passed an ordinance to direct initial CARES Act funds and an amendment explaining dollar amounts and where those dollars will be spent.

The Council has appropriated \$73m of CARES Act funds with this ordinance. A breakdown of dollar amounts is below.

- \$27m for economic stabilization
- \$20m for public health/medical response
- \$10m for the Snohomish Health District
- \$10m for human/social services + housing
- \$6m for essential government services



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## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Please note: The statistics are also available on the [Snohomish Health District website](#).

### ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211 for help**. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

The Council is working diligently to appropriate remaining funds as soon as possible. Workshops for further conversations will continue to be scheduled. These meetings are open to the public and are being hosted on Zoom. If you would like to attend, please visit our webpage regularly to find dates and times for the meetings and links to join, or follow us on Facebook.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2288/Meetings-Webcasts>

<https://www.facebook.com/snohomishcountycouncil>

For more information please read Snohomish County Council's [news release](#).

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of May 21, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 2
Confirmed	2,856
Probable	343
Deceased	133

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 2
Arlington	121 (102 recover
Bothell*	213 (167 recover
Brier	20 (18 recovere
Darrington	<5 (<5 recover
Edmonds	328 (252 recover
Everett	943 (673 recover
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recover
Granite Falls	24 (20 recovere
Index	0
Lake Stevens	117 (101 recover
Lynnwood	603 (462 recover
Marysville	241 (184 recover
Mill Creek	50 (41 recovere
Monroe	79 (62 recovere
Mountlake Terrace	105 (88 recover
Mukilteo	56 (54 recovere
Snohomish	146 (127 recover
Stanwood	97 (78 recovere
Sultan	8 (<5 recovere
Tulalip	20 (13 recovere
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovere
Woodinville*	12 (11 recovere
Woodway	8 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. \*Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.