



# COVID-19 County Response

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020



ISLAND  
SAN JUAN  
SKAGIT  
SNOHOMISH  
WHATCOM

# Island County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Jill Johnson
- Helen Price Johnson
- Janet St. Clair

Assessor - Mary Engle

Auditor - Shellah Crider

Clerk - Debra Van Pelt

Coroner - Robert Bishop

Prosecuting Attorney - Greg Banks

Sheriff - Rick Felici

Treasurer - Wanda Grone

## Local Public Health Officials

- Keith Higman, *Director*
- Chris Spitters, *Interim Health Officer*

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Administration Bldg 1  
NE 7th St., Rm 214  
Coupeville, WA 98239-5000  
360-678-5111



# San Juan County Elected Officials

## County Council

- Bill Watson
- Rick Hughes
- Jamie Stephens

Assessor - John Kulseth

Auditor - F. Milene Henley

Clerk - Lisa Henderson

Prosecuting Attorney / Coroner - Randall K. Gaylord

Sheriff - Ron Krebs

Treasurer - Rhonda Pederson

## Local Public Health Officials

- Mark Tompkins, *Director*
- Frank James, *Health Officer*

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55 Second St  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
360-378-2898



# Skagit County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Ron Wesen
- Ken Dahlstedt
- Lisa Janicki

Assessor - Dave Thomas

Auditor - Sandra Perkins

Clerk - Melissa Beaton

Coroner - Hayley Thompson

Prosecuting Attorney - Rich Weyrich

Sheriff - Don McDermott

Treasurer - Jackie Brunson

## Local Public Health Officials

- Jennifer Johnson, *Director*
- Howard Leibrand, *Health Officer*

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1800 Continental Place  
Suite 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
360-416-1300



# Snohomish County Elected Officials

**County Executive** - Dave Somers

## **County Council**

- Nate Nehring
- Megan Dunn
- Stephanie Wright
- Jared Mead
- Sam Low

**Assessor** - Linda Hjelle

**Auditor** - Garth Fell

**Clerk** - Heidi Percy

**Medical Examiner** - J. Matthew Lacy

**Prosecuting Attorney** - Adam Cornell

**Sheriff** - Adam Fortney

**Treasurer** - Brian Sullivan

## **Local Public Health Officials**

- Shawn Frederick, *Administrator*
- Chris Spitters, *Health Officer*

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3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201

**Executive** | 425-388-3050

**Council** | 425-388-3494



# Whatcom County Elected Officials

**County Executive** - Satpal Singh Sidhu

## County Council

- Barry Buchanan
- Todd Donovan
- Ben Elenbaas
- Carol Frazey
- Rud Browne
- Tyler Byrd
- Kathy Kershner

**Assessor** - Rebecca Xczar

**Auditor** - Diana Bradrick

**Clerk** - David L. Reynolds

**Medical Examiner** - Gary Goldfogel

**Prosecuting Attorney** - Eric J. Richey

**Sheriff** - Bill Elfo

**Treasurer** - Steven N. Oliver

## Local Public Health Officials

- Erika Lautenbach, *Director*
- Greg Stern, *Health Officer*

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311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Executive** | 360-778-5200

**Council** | 360-778-5010





WASHINGTON  
STATE ASSOCIATION  
of **COUNTIES**

# Local Public Health Response

*Shawn Frederick – Administrator,  
Snohomish Health District*

*Mark Tompkins – Director, San Juan  
County Health & Community Services*

# JANUARY - MARCH



Awareness  
but limited  
preparedness



Readying public  
health response



Monitoring of  
travelers



Coordinating  
with public  
health system



# MARCH - PRESENT



Case  
Investigation



Isolation and  
Quarantine



Community  
Measures



Local Agency  
Coordination



Communication  
and Messaging

# CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD



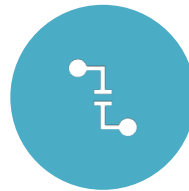
Reducing restrictions and Phase 2



Planning for second wave



Workforce



FPHS: On-going infrastructure needs

# Impact on County Functions

## How Has Responding To The Covid-19 Pandemic Affected County Functions?

- Essential needs – i.e. housing/homelessness, solid waste, broadband, transportation, food scarcity, etc.
- Public Safety
- Budget and Finances



Skagit County has stopped accepting ferry fare due to social distancing issues.



In San Juan County, the chip seal program has been delayed due to supplier issues

## Snohomish County

Early on, Snohomish County identified a need to have better coordination with the human service providers that have been providing resources and outreach to our sheltered population, people working to transition out of homelessness and people experiencing homelessness. Councilmember Dunn organized biweekly calls, collected survey results to identify immediate needs, emerging issues and barriers and compiled a stakeholder list of over 80 contacts and organizations. We have weekly updates from the health district, the County and expert speakers on mental health, housing, employment benefits and other identified needs. We've been hearing from the service providers that these calls have been very informative and beneficial for being able to connect with the Health District and Council.

## Skagit County

- Agencies are being creative and flexible with telehealth.
- Our detox has struggled with staffing issues related to COVID and had to cut capacity at different times.
- Our outreach workers aren't able to provide transportation.
- Drug court can't do UAs.
- Overdoses have increased.
- People in recovery are struggling due to lack of social support.



# Land Use and Permitting

- **San Juan County** has closed campgrounds at all county parks until May 30<sup>th</sup>. The county has also closed all playgrounds, transient rentals (anything less than 30 days) and transient moorage until May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Skagit County** has closed its permitting office to the public and most employees are working remotely. Non-emergency building inspections have stopped and any inspections for emergency repairs are being conducted via Facetime or Skype.
- **Island County** has implemented a low-income discount program for solid waste disposal. Transactions are being limited to credit card only – cash or checks are prohibited.
- **Snohomish County** has taken action authorizing time limit extensions for permits, applications and other approval. This will provide more time for residents to complete projects and provide information and analysis before their permits and applications expire.



# Homelessness Resources



Everett Gospel Mission has reduced capacity by about 50 people and stopped taking in new people to create space and reduce the possible spread of COVID-19. Additionally, they stopped providing congregate meals and switched to sack meals for those who are showing up.



Snohomish County will not be able to continue to shelter the 300 individuals we have gotten off the streets for more than approximately 6 more weeks without an infusion of additional resources.



Snohomish County is interested in grant deadline relief because field crews are not able to get work done on deadlines (mostly federal at this point)



Skagit County has 45 high risk homeless individuals in motel vouchers right now but has no resources to keep these very vulnerable individuals sheltered after May 4

# Anticipated Needs Moving Forward

- What are key matters needing attention at the county level in order to dial activities back up?
- What problems do you anticipate as we move into our “new normal?”
- What impacts do you foresee on your county budget, staffing, services, etc.?
- How can counties help restart the economy? What do you need in order to assist?
- What scares you right now and looking ahead?



North Sound Region BHASO notes that agencies and facilities are suffering due to the fee for service payment model and BH providers are struggling to survive.



# Questions?





# THANK YOU

These slides, a copy of the webinar, and notes from this session will be shared with you as soon as possible.



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 360.753.1886

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