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Monroe, Washington Economic Development Newsletter for February 2021

Monroe **Business**

CURRENT STATUS >>>

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021

Health Statistics: The Department of Health reported a total of 314,655 confirmed cases. There have been 4,803 COVID-19 deaths in Washington. For COVID-19 cases, hospitalization, and death rates by race and ethnicity at state and regional levels read the report [here](#).

Business Conditions: Updated guidance has been issued for farmers markets, food pantries, grocery stores, restaurants, and other food establishments. This guidance is now combined into one document for all [Food Workers and Establishments \(PDF\)](#). The individual links on DOH's [Resources and Recommendations](#) page for farmers markets, food pantries, grocery stores, and restaurants will soon be redirected to the Food Workers and Establishments document. For additional requirements in this sector, please also see the governor's [COVID-19 reopening guidance for businesses and workers](#) site for [Restaurants, Taverns, Wineries, Breweries and Distilleries](#); and a new FAQ on [Outdoor and Open-Air Structures](#). Updated guidance has also been posted by DOH for [Transient Accommodations \(Hotels, Motels, B&Bs, etc.\) \(PDF\)](#) to include information outlined in the governor's [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery](#) plan. To get up to date information about operational guidelines, sign up for notices from the Washington State Dept. of Commerce here => [Email Notifications from WA DoC](#)

CURRENT PHASE: 2

1. Indoor social gatherings with people from outside your household should not include more than 5 people, limit two households.
2. Outdoor social gatherings shall be limited to fifteen (15) people from outside your household, limit 2 households.
3. Worship services allowed up to 25% indoor capacity.
4. Retail stores, including farmers markets, allowed up to 25% indoor capacity. Curbside pick-up is encouraged.
5. Professional services allowed up to 25% indoor capacity. Remote work strongly encouraged.
6. Personal services allowed up to 25% indoor capacity.
7. Eating and drinking establishments are limited to 25% capacity for indoor service. Outdoor dining and to-go service are permitted, provided that all outdoor dining must comply with the requirements of the Outdoor Open Air Guidance. Table size for indoor and outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of six (6) people and two (2) households. Establishments only serving individuals 21+ and no food remain closed.
8. Wedding and funeral ceremonies and indoor receptions, and wakes are permitted and must follow appropriate venue requirements. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking establishment requirements outlined above apply. Dancing is prohibited.
9. Low and moderate risk sports competitions a permitted. Tournaments are not permitted. Fitness and training establishments can operate at a maximum of 25% capacity.
10. Indoor entertainment establishments such as aquariums, theaters, arenas, concert halls, gardens, museums, bowling alleys, trampoline facilities, cardrooms and event spaces are open at a maximum of 25% capacity. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking establishment requirements outlined above apply.
11. Outdoor entertainment establishments such as zoos, gardens, aquariums, theaters, stadiums, event spaces, arenas, concert venues and rodeos can be open for groups of fifteen (15), with a maximum of 200 individuals including spectators.

Federal

Eligible small businesses can now submit PPP First and Second Draw applications to any participating PPP lender.

What's the difference between a First Draw and a Second Draw PPP Loan?

In general, a [First Draw PPP loan](#) is for eligible borrowers who did not receive a PPP loan before the program closed in August 2020. A [Second Draw PPP loan](#) is for certain eligible borrowers that previously received a PPP loan, generally have 300 employees or less, and have suffered a 25% reduction in gross receipts.

[More on PPP options](#)

[Find a PPP lender](#)

[Info in different languages](#)

You can find additional information and resources [here](#) on the state's Department of Financial Institutions website.

Other Coronavirus Relief for Small Businesses



Low-interest **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** provides working capital to small businesses, non-profits and agricultural businesses impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[Details to apply now](#)



The **Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG)** program will provide eligible organizations who've had a reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic an opportunity to apply for up to a \$10 million grant.

[Read program details](#)

State

On February 10th, The Legislature passed [ESHB 1368](#), the Economic Relief Early Action bill, which includes \$240M for small business grants. Governors' signature is forthcoming. The full \$2.2 billion economic relief proposal is federal funding and is as follows:

- \$240 million in small business grants allocated by the Department of Commerce. \$120 million of that amount is provided to assist businesses in maintaining their operations and \$120 million is provided to assist in reopening businesses that temporarily closed their operations.
- \$668 million to school districts, which includes requirements that districts, and charter schools submit reopening plans to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and submit academic and student well-being plans, which must address learning loss among students.
- \$618 million for vaccine distribution, contact tracing and testing.
- \$325 million for direct assistance with rental payments and utility bills.
- \$4.7 million for food assistance and \$26.3 million for hunger relief organizations.
- \$50 million for childcare grants and incentives.

The bill was sent to Governor Inslee's desk on February 17th and is expected to be signed within the week. Watch the KING5 report for more details => [WA State Legislature Passes COVID Relief Bill](#)

The Washington State Department of Commerce indicates that applications for these funds will be available mid-March. Applications will be available here => [Working Washington Small Business Grants: Round 4](#)



ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE RECOVERY TASK FORCE

WEBINAR

Date: February 25th

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Please join the Snohomish County Office of Economic and Workforce Development for an update about CARES economic development work. Link to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/92744324394?pwd=RUMxSkdWZTNQWXRRc3RJSjloS2kxdz09>

Passcode: 936679

Or iPhone one-tap : US: +12532158782,,92744324394# or +13462487799,,92744324394#

LOOKING FOR A JOB? HAVE A POSITION OPEN?

Welcome to [SnoCoWork.com](https://www.snocowork.com)

This website is designed to connect residents in Snohomish County with employers who are seeking local talent for thousands of positions in high-tech, smart manufacturing that will be created in Snohomish County before 2030. SnoCoWork.com is a free resource to both applicants and employers as long as the position is based in Snohomish County or can be performed remotely from Snohomish County. Good luck with your search, check back daily for new listings!

SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES OFFERS IT CERTIFICATION

Sno-Isle Libraries is offering the CompTIA A+ information training certificate program for up to 50 participants, starting this month. The certificate is useful for anyone interested in entering the IT field. Read the full press release at <https://www.sno-isle.org/news/sno-isle-libraries-offers-certificate-program-for-entry-to-it-field/>.

For more information, contact Sno-Isle Libraries Communications Specialist Kurt Batdorf at kbatdorf@sno-isle.org or 360-724-8223.

For more general information about business assistance in Snohomish County, please go to <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/5600/COVID-19-Business-Recovery>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Google OnAir](#) offers free virtual workshops, events, and 1:1 coaching sessions to help small businesses and job seekers get the most out of their digital tools.
- [Small Business Relief Initiative and Fund](#) – combined relief effort by GoFundMe, Yelp, Intuit QuickBooks, GoDaddy, and Bill.com. Make your contribution to help more small businesses receive grants.
- [Signs.com](#) – Offering free printable signs for businesses for Covid-19 to show social distancing is important.

[EMPLOYERS](#) Resources for employers and business owners.

- [Frequently asked questions for business](#)
- [Workplace safety guidance](#)
- [Business Signage Toolkit](#)

Violations of the Governor's proclamation, including essential businesses not following social distancing requirements, [can be reported online](#).

OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

IRS:

[Disaster Assistance](#)

Craft3:

<https://www.craft3.org/Borrow/business>

Business Impact Northwest

<https://businessimpactnw.org/>

Evergreen Business Capital:

<https://www.evergreen504.com/>

Mercy Corps Northwest:

<https://www.mercycorpsnw.org/>

RECOVERY IN MONROE

Calling all Hospitality Businesses

What will recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic look like in Monroe? Each community will have a unique recovery strategy that will depend on the impact endured and the strengths and assets it can call upon to aid in recovery.

Economic forecasts are predicting a surge of travel once people are free to move and mingle once again. An increase in day trips and weekend getaways bodes well for Monroe who has long benefited from travelers who traverse Highway 2 on their way to and from the Cascades and surrounding areas.

For Monroe, one of the most impacted sectors has been the hospitality sector. This does not detract from the hardships all businesses have faced, but as a group, this sector has been one of the most severely affected. One aspect of our recovery strategy is to get more travelers off Highway 2 and into the Downtown hospitality district. As we attempt to bolster this sector, we are asking the restaurateurs, brewers, wine tasting rooms and other hospitality business owners to come together in a “Hospitality Task Force” to work together on this strategy. If you would like to participate in the task force, please reach out directly to James Palmer, City of Monroe Economic Development Specialist, at 360-631-0050 or email,

JPalmer@MonroeWA.gov

Another way the city is assisting recovery is by gathering information. We need data to assess our current situation and track our progress. A Regional Demand Analysis along with a Socioeconomic Indicators Dashboard have been created to identify the key data points that will highlight sectors most impacted, indicate levels of success and identify potential new sources of income for the city. You can see this data on our Economic Development webpage. Go to [Monroe Economic Development](#) for more details.

We’d love to hear your ideas on Recovery in Monroe.

Contact JPalmer@MonroeWA.gov

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in partnership with the Washington Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) and Health Commons is expanding its COVID-19 testing service for schools and adding voluntary testing options to its toolkit for school districts. This is part of the ongoing effort to expand in-person learning to more Washington students.

Now, DOH is expanding the testing program, with at least 48 more districts signed up to start this month, and a “[Learn to Return Playbook](#)” designed to help school districts develop COVID-19 testing strategies that work for them.

The Monroe School District Board unanimously voted on February 8th to approve the agreement between the Monroe School District (MSD) and the Monroe Education Association (MEA) to return to in-person learning for grades 1-5, they set the official dates for these students to return to school. **In-person learning will begin for students in grades 1-2 on Monday, March 1 and for grades 3-5 on Monday, March 15.**

While Monroe schools will be sharing their school-specific safety plans with their families in the coming days, their updated district-wide safety plan can be found [here](#). Families who are not comfortable sending their kids back for in person learning are invited to transfer to the [Monroe Virtual Learning Academy](#) (MVLA), by [submitting transfer paperwork](#) as soon as possible. The Monroe Virtual Learning Academy is a fully online program and classes are led by Monroe School District educators and support staff.

VACCINATION UPDATE >>>

As of Feb. 15, 2021 more than 1,201,120 doses of vaccine have been given across Washington State, which is nearly 83% of the 1,453,425 doses that have been delivered to our providers and long-term care programs. Washington is currently averaging 26,204 vaccine doses given each day.

Winter storms are causing vaccine shipment delays across the nation. DOH estimates more than 90% of this week's allocation will arrive late due to weather out east. These shipment delays may force providers to reschedule appointments. If you have a vaccine appointment this week, please contact your provider for an update.

Washington's 3-week forecast from the federal government is gradually increasing.

Week of February 21: 263,570 total doses (146,110 first doses, 117,460 second doses)

Week of February 28: 269,270 total doses (146,110 first doses, 123,160 second doses)

Week of March 7: 292,220 total doses (146,110 first doses, 146,110 second doses)

Although the increase is encouraging, allocations still do not meet the number of doses providers requested. For the week of February 21, Washington state providers requested 436,720 total doses of vaccine, which is 173,150 more doses than the state will receive from the federal government.

Find your spot in line with Phase Finder. Go to www.FindYourPhaseWA.org and fill out the questionnaire.

Having trouble scheduling a vaccination appointment? This helpful tool will locate the nearest location that has vaccine and is making appointments. Click here for the most up to date information on where to get vaccinated => [WA COVID Vaccine Finder](#)

How do I use this site?

1. Enter your zip code, city, or county name and it will show you a list of providers that have appointments available.
2. If there is an open appointment, they provide a link to the vaccination provider's booking webpage.
3. If you see Available, click the "Schedule" button to visit the provider's website.
4. Schedule your appointment through the provider's website.
5. If you need help scheduling an appointment or finding availability, you can connect with a volunteer at [Vaccine Bookers Washington](http://VaccineBookersWashington.com) (vaccinebookerswashington.com) or [Find a COVID Shot WA](#) (volunteers prioritizing people of color). There are also some helpful tips at helpfindmyshot.com and [in this video](#) made by Vaccine Bookers Washington.

Contact Us >>>

City of Monroe
Economic Development Office
806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
360-631-0050
JPalmer@MonroeWA.gov
www.monroewa.gov



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