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Monroe, Washington Economic Development Newsletter for May 2021

Monroe **Business**

CURRENT COVID STATUS >>>

[Proclamation 20-25.13](#) incorporates the new CDC face covering guidance, which generally provides that **fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a mask** inside or outside, except in certain locations, including health care settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, and public transportation. The proclamation clarifies that business owners may adopt an “honor system” and may assume that any customer who is not wearing a face covering has been fully vaccinated. The proclamation also clarifies that business owners and local authorities have the option to require that customers wear a face covering, and that local authorities may not prohibit business owners from requiring that their customers wear a face covering. Additionally, the proclamation addresses the application of this new rule to employees and employers and requires that employers must obtain proof of vaccination or obtain a self-attestation from the employee, attesting to their fully vaccinated status, before an employee may work at a worksite without wearing a mask. The proclamation also permits employers to continue to require that employees wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status. The proclamation includes a link to additional and more detailed employer guidance from the state’s Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). You can find the proclamation [here](#), L&I’s document [here](#), and additional information in the press release below and [online here](#).

CURRENT COVID STATUS cont.

[Proclamation 21-08](#) includes new worker protections that safeguard employees who wish to get vaccinated, or who are in isolation or quarantine, from adverse action by their employer. The proclamation also aligns with the CDC recommendation that employers provide flexible options for worker vaccinations and alleviates barriers to vaccine access. You can find the proclamation [here](#), and additional information in the press release below and [online here](#).

Are We There Yet? >>>

Not yet, but almost. Given the unprecedented nature of the pandemic it can be hard to attach definitive answers to timeframes on when things will return to normal. Things are moving in the right direction as more Snohomish County residents become vaccinated and continue to practice safety guidelines.

Where are we now? Snohomish County is currently in Phase 3. The State has issued a template to be used by any businesses allowed to re-open under Phase 3 that have not already received [industry guidance](#). The template will walk businesses through best practices for sanitation, social distancing, PPE, scheduling, serving customers, and more, allowing them to meet health and safety requirements by taking an approach that works best for their operations. Templates need to be completed and kept on-site, but do not need to be submitted to the State for review. Importantly, industry-specific guidance remains in effect. You can read more here and access the [Phase 3 template here](#).

Some important reminders about the mask updates:

- Employers must require proof of vaccination or self-attestation from every employee before those employees are permitted to work at the worksite without wearing a face covering as permitted under the general rule referenced above. Employers may choose the form of proof they will require.
- If an employee is not fully vaccinated or their vaccination status is unknown, employers must continue to require masks and social distancing.
- The new guidance does not change masking rules for health care settings like hospitals, long-term care, or doctor's offices; correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, child care centers or day camps. The federal order requiring masks on public transportation remains in place.
- Employers cannot fire or discriminate against an employee who is at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and is seeking accommodation that protects them from COVID-19 exposure.

Snohomish County Extends Deadline for Individual Property Taxpayers

Deadline will now be June 1, 2020

EVERETT, Snohomish County, March 30, 2020 - Due to the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Snohomish County Treasurer Brian Sullivan and Executive Dave Somers have extended the first-half 2020 property tax deadline to June 1, 2020. This Executive Order only applies to residents who pay their individual and commercial property taxes themselves, rather than through their mortgage lender. Banks and other financial institutions that pay property taxes on behalf of their lending customers will still need to meet the original April 30 deadline.

For those who can do so, Snohomish County is encouraging individual taxpayers to pay by the original April 30 deadline or as soon thereafter as possible. The county will not add interest charges to the tax bill for individual taxpayers who pay the first half amount of their 2020 property taxes by June 1.

Payments can be made: By mail using a check or money order addressed to Snohomish County Treasurer 3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS501, Everett, WA 98201. (Cash should not be sent through the mail)

Pay online <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5214/Treasurer>.

Banks, mortgage servicers, title companies, and other financial services entities that serve as fiscal agents by collecting property taxes from individual taxpayers and making bulk payments shall adhere to the April 30, 2020 deadline. Specifically, CoreLogic and its subsidiaries—Lereta, Wells Fargo tax service, Nationwide Compliance, and Covius—must all adhere to the April 30, 2020 deadline to avoid interest and penalties.

Delinquent property taxes are excluded from this extension.

This move is consistent with extensions from Pierce and King County Treasurers, who are issuing similar orders in their jurisdictions. The deadline will not be extended past June 1, as many cities, counties, school districts, fire districts, hospital districts, and other special purpose districts rely on the year's first installment of property tax revenue to make June debt service payments.

Taxpayers with questions about their property tax bill or payment options can contact the Snohomish County Treasurer at (<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5214/Treasurer> or phone 425-388-3366).

Evergreen State Fair Plans to Get "Back in the Saddle" for 2021

The Evergreen State Fair announces plans to be open for an 11-day Fair following state COVID-19 guidance

Plans are being developed to open an 11-day Evergreen State Fair at the Evergreen State Fair Park in Monroe this year from August 26-31 and September 2-6. The Fair will be closed September 1. This year's theme: "Back in the Saddle Again – Open for Fun in 2021" is a cheerful metaphor of dusting oneself off after the challenging ride that was 2020, and the anticipation of reuniting members of the community and fans of the Fair after making it through 2020 together. With increased sanitation, capacity limits and adherence to health guidelines like social distancing and mask usage, the Fair staff has plans in place to keep everyone safe and healthy while at the Fair Park.

With changes such as advance purchase admission and parking e-ticketing, electronic building capacity message boards and other innovations, Fair staff are working hard to make a 2021 Fair safe, fun and possible.

"Snohomish County welcomes some celebration after a year of struggle and sacrifice," said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. "While the Evergreen State Fair may be a bit different this year, we're looking forward to getting everyone 'Back in the Saddle Again!' We have no doubt that our agriculture community, vendors, guests, and Fair family will be excited to have the opportunity enjoy the end of summer festivities the Fair offers."

"Everyone looks forward to the Evergreen State Fair, and after the cancellation in 2020, we couldn't be happier to see this important community event come back," said Snohomish County Council Chair Stephanie Wright. "With the proper health and safety guidelines, it will be a fun, festive, and safe fair."

More announcements about entertainment, exhibits, vendors and more will be announced in the coming months. It will be crucial to "Know before you go" to enjoy a safe and fun fair. With COVID-19 information changing frequently, the guidelines and state recommendations for fairs could shift. Stay connected with the Fair Park and updates through their website, newsletter and social media at www.evergreenfair.org.

BY THE NUMBERS>>>

Data is power. Utilizing up-to-date data allows businesses to gain better understanding of the demographic data that drive sales, prices and a variety of other relevant information that helps businesses operate effectively.

Monroe recently updated its demographic data. See how Monroe is doing “By the Numbers” here => [Monroe Economic Development Webpage.](#)



Doing Industry Research: A Resource Guide

For anyone that is interested in more in-depth assistance, the [Census Academy](#) offers pre-recorded videos and webinars that are specific types of research and products.

Each of the [webinars is usually recorded](#) and available:

- Exploring data.census.gov
- Introduction to Census Bureau Data
- Exploring Census Data Webinar Series: Transportation Statistics
- Women-Owned Businesses
- Accessing the Economic Census Local Area Data on data.census.gov

They also produce video shorts - [DATA GEMS](#) - that are usually more task oriented like:

- How to Navigate data.census.gov
- How to Customize and Download Tables Using data.census.gov
- How Do I Get Business Data for My Location?

More information on how to use census data for business research here =>

[Library of Congress U.S. Census Research Guides](#)

VACCINATION UPDATE >>>

Where and how do I get vaccinated?

There are multiple options for getting vaccinated in Snohomish County.

- Check with your primary healthcare provider, clinic or pharmacy on their vaccination plans.
- Use the [Washington State Department of Health Vaccine Locator Tool](#).
- Use the [CDC Vaccine Finder Tool](#).
- Sign up for an appointment at one of the mass vaccination sites in Snohomish County.
- Text your ZIP Code to GETVAX (438829) to receive addresses of nearby available vaccination sites.

Mass vaccination sites schedule

Wednesday May 26	Arlington Airport (P): 9am-4pm Ash Way Park & Ride Lynnwood (P): 11am-6pm
Thursday May 27	Ash Way Park & Ride Lynnwood (P): 11am-6pm Evergreen State Fairgrounds Monroe (M): 9am-4pm
Friday May 28	Ash Way Park & Ride Lynnwood (P): 11am-6pm Boeing Everett Activity Center (M): 9am-4pm Edmonds College (M): 9am-4pm
Saturday May 29	Ash Way Park & Ride Lynnwood (P): 11am-6pm Edmonds College (M): 9am-4pm
Sunday May 30	Ash Way Park & Ride Lynnwood (P): 11am-6pm
Monday May 31	Arlington Airport (P): 9am-4pm Evergreen State Fairgrounds Monroe (M): 9am-4pm
Tuesday June 1	Arlington Airport (P): 9am-4pm



P = Pfizer vaccine
M = Moderna vaccine
J = Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Adolescents and vaccination

At the mass vaccination sites operated by the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce, people who are 12 and older may be vaccinated with parent or guardian consent for the Pfizer vaccine. An adult parent or legal guardian must accompany anyone under 18 to the vaccination appointment to sign the consent form on site. They should also bring identification showing proof of age for the minor, such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

Contact Us >>>

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