



Weekly COVID-19 Update from the CEO

October 16, 2020

In preparation for the upcoming holiday season, the Washington State Department of Health added a new section to its website called Safer Gatherings. It contains checklists for determining how to have and who to include in gatherings as well as suggestions for new ways to celebrate in the time of COVID. Find this information at: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for-you-and-your-family/safer-gatherings>

This week, Governor Inslee allowed the remaining five counties under Phase 1 restriction to move to Phase 2. Inslee also announced the eviction moratorium and public utility proclamations will be extended to December 31.

Clallam and Jefferson Counties are still in relatively good shape, both counties remain in the "Low" category, however transmission rates are increasing in Washington among all age groups. Increases appear to be due to broad community spread and not driven by a single type of activity or behavior. Though all age groups are seeing increases, the rising trends among older people are particularly concerning because these cases tend to experience more severe illness.

The Washington State Department of Health is making steady progress around planning the distribution of an expected COVID-19 vaccine. The state will follow the ["Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine"](#) report to inform their planning on how to prioritize vaccinations given a limited initial supply.

Once scientists approve a vaccine and it becomes widely available, I urge everyone to get vaccinated. Think about all the previous diseases that have been kept under control by vaccines - measles, mumps, smallpox, polio and more. This is how we will end the pandemic!

Stay safe!

W. Ron Allen, Council Chair/CEO