



Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County Update



In This Issue...

1. Thurston County Seeks Applications for 2024 Lodging Tax Funds
2. Prepare for Respiratory Illness Season
3. Attend the Thurston County Veteran Stand Down
4. Subscribe to Thurston County YouTube Channel
5. Two Public Hearings to be Held November 7

#1 - Thurston County Seeks Applications for 2024 Lodging Tax Funds

THURSTON COUNTY LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LTAC) IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 LODGING TAX FUNDS

MORE INFO:

www.thurstoncountywa.gov/news/count-y-seeks-applications-2024-lodging-tax-funds



The Thurston County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) is accepting applications for qualified projects occurring in unincorporated Thurston County in 2024.

Lodging Tax funds may be used to promote tourism events, locations, and activities for the purpose of attracting visitors to this area. Lodging tax revenue may also be used to pay for capital and/or operating costs for some tourism-related facilities, the operation of visitor/convention agencies, and the operation and marketing of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists. While the total Lodging Tax Award amount will not be finalized until December 19, 2023, the LTAC is expecting to have approximately \$150,000 to distribute.

Applicants must include proposals for tourism-related services in Thurston County occurring in 2024. LTAC will give high priority to tourism activities:

- Demonstrating potential or high potential to result in overnight stays by tourists in lodging establishments within Thurston County.
- Promoting Thurston County and/or events, activities, and places in the county to potential tourists from outside Thurston County.
- Demonstrating potential or high potential to result in documented economic benefit to Thurston County.
- Having demonstrated history of success in Thurston County or are proposed by a group with a demonstrated history or high potential of success with similar activities.
- Minimizing duplication of services where appropriate and encouraging cooperative marketing and/or include an element of cooperation or partnership.
- Providing, maintaining, operating, or enhancing county-owned tourism facilities or infrastructure.

For more information, visit the [LTAC webpage](#).

#2 - Prepare for Respiratory Illness Season

5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON



Order at-home COVID-19 Tests



As of September 25, 2023, residential households in the U.S. can order one set of #4 free at-home tests from www.covid.gov/tests.

Mask Up



Wear a mask if you must be around others while you are sick or 6-10 days after your last exposure, whichever is longer.

Stay Home When Sick



Stay home and test for COVID-19 if you feel sick. Follow WA DOH's COVID-19 Symptom Decision Tree for guidance.

Get Vaccinated



CDC recommends that everyone stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, especially people with weakened immune systems. Find Thurston County vaccine site locations at vaccines.gov

Use COVID-19 Telehealth



Telehealth is a free and easy way to see if COVID-19 oral antivirals such as [Paxlovid](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-research-and-manufacturing/paxlovid), are right for you.

Follow For More Tips
[@thurstonhealth](https://twitter.com/thurstonhealth)



It is common to get sick from respiratory viruses such as [COVID-19](#), [flu](#), and [respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#), especially in the fall and winter, but there are actions you can take to protect yourself and others.

Here are the actions you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, flu, or RSV:

- Get all the recommended vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Consider masking indoors when respiratory virus levels are high, and if you are at high risk of severe disease or are in close contact with people at high risk of severe disease.
- Wash your hands often, and make sure to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.

Taking these precautions not only helps protect you, but helps reduce the spread of respiratory viruses within the community. Learn more about whether you're more likely to get seriously ill, how to prevent these viruses, and if these viruses are spreading in your community at <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>.

COVID-19 Test Availability:

As of September 25, 2023, residential households in the U.S. can order one set of four free at-home tests from www.covid.gov/tests. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, it's essential to get tested. This helps in early detection and isolation to prevent the spread

of the virus.

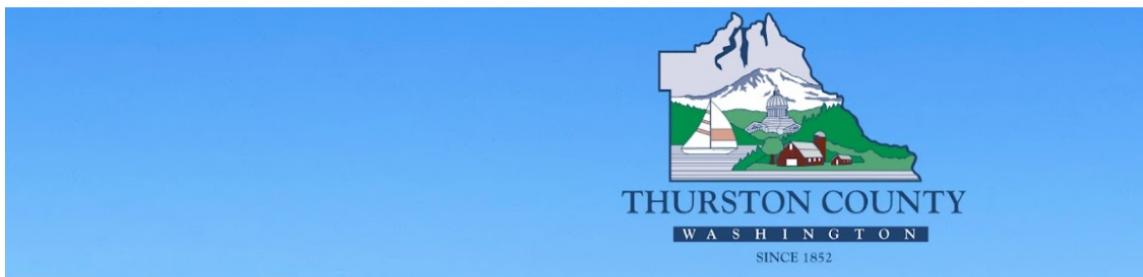
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services has a new [Respiratory Illness webpage](#), with a respiratory virus report uploaded each week on Wednesday.

#3 - Attend the Thurston County Veteran Stand Down

A promotional poster for the Thurston County Veteran Stand Down. The poster features a red border and a white background. At the top left, there is a graphic of the American flag. In the center, five blue stars are arranged in a horizontal row above a double red line. Below this, the text "THURSTON COUNTY" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Underneath, "VETERAN STAND DOWN" is written in bold, red capital letters. This is followed by "9TH NOVEMBER 2023" in bold, black capital letters, and "0900-1500" in bold, black capital letters. Below the time, the address "2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502." is written in black. At the bottom, there are four logos: the Lacey Veterans Services Hub logo, the American Red Cross logo, the Thurston County Veterans Assistance Fund logo, and the Thurston County Washington logo. The bottom right corner of the poster features another graphic of the American flag.

Attend the upcoming Thurston County Veteran Stand Down on November 9, for their annual resource fair! The event is located at 2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia 98502, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and includes a free breakfast and BBQ lunch. More than 70 service vendors and employment providers will be at the resource fair, sharing housing resources, veterans benefits, medical benefits, and more. For more information, visit the [event webpage](#).

#4 - Subscribe to the Thurston County YouTube Channel



Thurston County

@ThurstonCountyWashington 1.05K subscribers 1.8K videos

The official YouTube page of the Thurston County Government. This is you... >

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Coffee With a Commissioner - Wildfire Preparedness and Smo...

453 views · 1 month ago

Commissioner Mejia discusses wildfire preparedness and smoke safety with Ben Miller-Todd, Emergency Services Director with Thurston County, and Jeff Johnston, Executive Director at Olympic Region Clean Air Agency.

Additional Resources:

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READ MORE

Commissioners Meetings Public Hearings and Work Sessions

Did you know Thurston County has a YouTube channel? The [official YouTube channel of Thurston County](#) is where you can [watch live](#) and recorded Board of County Commissioner meetings and work sessions. You can also watch episodes of [Coffee with a Commissioner](#), our talk show program where our commissioners interview subject matter experts on timely and relevant topics to Thurston County. Subscribe to the channel so you don't miss out on new videos!

#5 - Two Public Hearings to be held November 7

Thurston County Public Hearing



The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners will hold two public hearings on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., in Room 110, 3000 Pacific Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501. The following public hearings are:

- [Lacey Joint Plan Update](#)
- [An Ordinance Amending Thurston County Code 2.07.00, Increasing the Membership of the Thurston County Board of Health Consistent with RCW 70.05.030](#)

For more information on meetings and public hearings, visit: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/meetings-public-hearings-and-work-session-agendas>

Before you go...

Due to limited staffing, we will not be sending out the Friday Five on November 10. The Friday Five will be back in your inbox on Friday, November 17!

In the meantime, stay up-to-date on county news, updates, and events by following Thurston County on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).



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Subscribe to the Friday Five

Stay current on upcoming public hearings, meetings, and work sessions by bookmarking the [Board of County Commissioners' master calendar](#)! Please call the Board of County Commissioners office at (360) 786-5440 if you're having problems viewing the calendar.

Thurstoncountywa.gov



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