



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carolina Mejia
District One

Gary Edwards
District Two

Tye Menser
District Three

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

April 4, 2023,

Dear Thurston County Health Care Partners,

David M. Bayne, MPH
Director

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Health Officer

The Washington State Department of Health updated COVID-19 guidance for healthcare facilities including long-term care facilities. Currently, guidance for healthcare facilities in Washington State aligns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#).

The Washington State Department of Health has also issued a [SARS-CoV-2 Infection Prevention and Control in Health Care Settings Toolkit](#) with supplementary resources.

Please note that masking as part of source control in the healthcare setting continues to be recommended for everyone in healthcare facilities even when they do not have symptoms. Facilities can choose to continue to require masks or make them optional. Facilities with reported COVID-19 outbreaks will receive written guidance from Thurston County Public Health and Social Services outlining required and recommended infection control measures.

The Washington State Department of Health is holding two webinars on the guidance updates on **Thursday, April 6, 2023, from 10am-12pm and Thursday April 20th, 2023, from 10am-11:30am.**

Please use the link below to register for both webinars.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aOhRSA38RXm-m4wgK2Bd9g

Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns. The Thurston County PHSS COVID-19 team can be reached at 360-867-2610. Thank you so much for all you are doing to keep patients, residents, and staff safe and healthy.

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Thurston County Health Officer