



8/10/20

*\* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

**Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-  
Emergency Rule (WAC 246-101-017) designates COVID-19 as Notifiable  
Condition and Additional Information Required for Reporting.**

**Requested Action:**

- **Age, sex, race and ethnicity must now be included in reported laboratory data for SARS-COV-2 testing.** This is a requirement of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which mandates that this demographic information must be collected and reported to local or state public health departments.
- **COVID-19 is a notifiable condition and must be reported within twenty-four hours to local health jurisdiction.** Laboratories to report all positive, negative and indeterminant tests for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, to local health jurisdiction within 24 hours of test completion. Principal health care providers to report positive tests within 24 hours to local health jurisdiction. Health care facilities where they assume reporting responsibility must also report positive tests within 24 hours of test completion to local health jurisdiction. Reporting should be completed using existing secure reporting channels.

**Background:**

SARS-CoV-2 the virus causing the COVID-19 global pandemic emerged in December 2019. As of August 9, there were 63,072 confirmed cases and 1,688 deaths in Washington State and 776 confirmed cases and 11 deaths in Thurston County. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020 requires that every laboratory that processes tests that detect SARS-CoV-2 report that information to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through state and local public health departments using current reporting channels. Further HHS guidance issued on June 4, 2020 included requirements that laboratories who process SARS-CoV-2 tests report demographic data to include the patient's sex, age, ethnicity and race. The Emergency Rule Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) reporting (WAC 246-101-017) went into effect on July 31, 2020 and will remain in effect for 120 days. You can access a copy of the full emergency rule at [https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/phssdocuments/COVID-19\\_WSR2016121\\_SBOHSars2COVID19reporting246101017-final.pdf](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/phssdocuments/COVID-19_WSR2016121_SBOHSars2COVID19reporting246101017-final.pdf).

Thank you, our public health partners, for the long and often unappreciated and unacknowledged hours you are tirelessly spending caring for your patients and working on COVID-19 to lessen its impact on our community and flatten the curve

**Resources:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION DIVISION  
 THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
 412 LILLY RD NE  
 OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132  
 DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470  
 Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH, Health Officer



Washington State Department of Health (DOH):  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/HealthcareProviders>

DOH - What to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 -  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDcasepositive.pdf>

DOH - What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 -  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDexposed.pdf>

DOH - What to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms but have not been around anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 -  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDconcerned.pdf>

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department:  
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department: Emergency Rule pdf  
[https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/phssdocuments/COVID-19\\_WSR2016121\\_SBOHSars2COVID19reporting246101017-final.pdf](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/phssdocuments/COVID-19_WSR2016121_SBOHSars2COVID19reporting246101017-final.pdf)

**THANK YOU FOR REPORTING WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!**

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting <b>non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)</b>	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
<b>Day time immediately reportable conditions</b> – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
<b>After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b>	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is <b>immediately notifiable</b>	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>