



3/16/2020

COVID-19 Reporting

DATE: March 16, 2020
TO: All Thurston County Medical Providers, Hospitals, and Clinics
FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH, Acting Health Officer, Thurston County
RE: MANDATORY REPORTING – All COVID-19 confirmed and suspect cases that require hospitalization

Beginning 3/16/2020 until 4/30/2020 the THURSTON COUNTY Health Officer has ordered the following:

1. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 are **IMMEDIATELY REPORTABLE**.
2. All patients hospitalized with COVID-like illness and awaiting test results for COVID-19 are **IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE**.
3. All patients in clinical settings who have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 awaiting test results are **IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE**.
4. Report suspect and confirmed cases to:
 - During business hours Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM - 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.
 - After hours call immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions to 1-800-986-9050.

As of 4:30 PM 3/16/2020 we have 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in Thurston County. All cases were ill enough to need hospitalization. One case was reported prior to hospitalization. Three cases were reported to the Health Department after hospitalization. Three were tested in clinics prior to needing hospital care.

Over the past few weeks, we have requested that health care providers report to the Health Department, both suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19 you test. The reason for reporting is that we need to do our public health work to minimize risk to the community. We do case interviews, reinforcing the need to self-quarantine and monitor for illness symptoms, identify contacts who may have been exposed, and follow up with exposed contacts. Identifying confirmed cases and doing our best to find their contacts is a crucial task that we need to do now. This will help limit the further spread of the disease.

It is estimated that the number of infected in our community is much larger than the 4 confirmed cases. We have implemented social distancing measures and public recommendations to decrease the risk of exposure to all citizens. Social distancing measures include:

1. Banning gatherings of 50 or more people



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2. Requiring gatherings of less than 50 people:
 - Advise persons at high risk of complications not to attend
 - Maintain 6 feet of distance between participants
 - Have hygiene stations and resources available
 - Screen employees for illness and ask them not to come to work
 - Ask participants who are ill not to attend
3. Closing schools, dining in at restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities
4. Encouraging employees to telework, if possible

We are aware of drive through testing available for patients of Kaiser Permanente and Tumwater Family Practice. The testing is available for their patients only. We are working with Providence St Peter Hospital and Capital Medical Center to make drive through testing available for the public. Until the resources are available, we ask for everyone's patience.

Please continue reinforcing the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene, keeping hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth and staying home when ill. These are measures that will be effective in limiting the spread of the disease. Keeping people that are known to be infected in isolation is essential. However, not everyone infected will manifest illness in the same way. The test is not 100% sensitive and may not pick up all positive cases. We need to consider every person as potentially infected and use our hygiene and social distancing precautions to limit our exposure to the virus.

Thank you for all you do to care for our community. I appreciate your cooperation at this challenging time.

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – 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
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

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