

# COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

## Thurston County



**Time Period Covered:** March 11-May 3, 2020

### Background

COVID-19 is a new illness caused by a coronavirus that had not been found in people prior to December 2019. The illness can cause severe health issues, including death. There is no vaccine to prevent the illness, no proven safe medications for use with COVID-19 and immunity among those who have had COVID-19 is not yet understood.

### Summary

The first person diagnosed (confirmed) with COVID-19 was reported for Thurston County on 3/11/20. A person is diagnosed with COVID-19 if they have tested positive for the illness.

- As of 5/3/20, a total of 112 Thurston County residents had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and one resident had died from health issues related to COVID-19.

	Description	Total (cumulative)	Underlying Condition
<b>As of 5/3/20</b>	Laboratory Tests for COVID-19	5,342 tests (2% positive)	
<b>As of 5/3/20</b>	Diagnosed with COVID-19 (confirmed/positive test)	112 residents	
	Recovered/Recovering	104 residents	
	Hospitalized	18 residents	72%
	Deaths	1 resident	100%
	Congregate Care Setting Outbreaks	0	

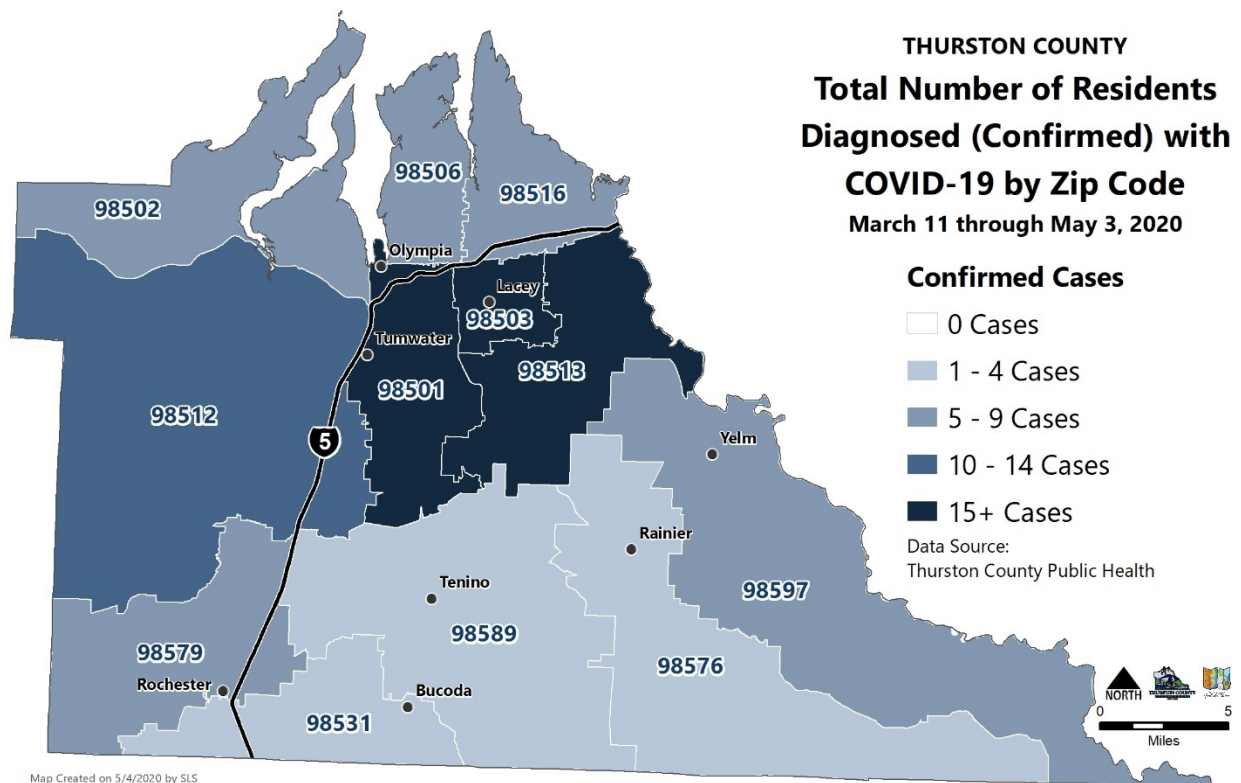
Week (Monday-Sunday)	Total Diagnosed in Week	Percent Change from Previous Week	Running Total (cumulative)
Week 1 (3/9 – 3/15)	4	Not applicable	4
Week 2 (3/16 – 3/22)	6	150% increase	10
Week 3 (3/23 – 3/29)	26	260% increase	36
Week 4 (3/30 – 4/5)	31	86% increase	67
Week 5 (4/6 – 4/12)	13	19% increase	80
Week 6 (4/13 – 4/19)	12	15% increase	92
Week 7 (4/20 – 4/26)	8	9% increase	100
Week 8 (4/27 – 5/3)	12	12% increase	112

Note: Percent change is the difference (increase or decrease) in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases for the current week compared to the previous week.

## Geography

The majority of Thurston County residents live in unincorporated areas of the county, meaning they live outside of city or town limits. Zip codes provide a way to view county data by a geography that includes both cities/towns and unincorporated areas.

- The Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department does consider the county to be experiencing community spread. Community spread means we are seeing some county residents diagnosed with COVID-19 and cannot identify how or where they became infected with the illness.
- Residents from across Thurston County have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
  - The highest number of cases are in the 98513, 98503 and 98501 zip codes.
  - The zip codes that have seen an increase in number of confirmed cases since last week are:
    - 98501
    - 98502
    - 98506
    - 98513
    - 98516
    - 98576



## Race and Ethnicity

The main purpose of collecting data from individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 is to conduct a disease investigation that prevents further spread of the illness. Local disease investigations focus on identifying how an individual was exposed to COVID-19 and who they came into close contact with after being infected with COVID-19. Data on race and ethnicity are not connected to the spread of COVID-19 and may not be collected in every case.

- Thurston County residents who identify as Black and Hispanic are over-represented as a percent of COVID-19 confirmed cases when compared to the county's total population.

<b>Thurston County As of 5/3/20</b>	<b>Percent of Residents Diagnosed with COVID-19</b>	<b>Percent of Total County Population</b>
<b>Race</b>		
Asian	3%	6%
Black or African American	10%	3%
Native American	0%	2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	1%
White	81%	82%
Other	3%	Not available
Multiracial	3%	6%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic	19%	9%
Non-Hispanic	81%	91%

Native American includes American Indian and Alaska Native.

The percent Unknown for Thurston County residents diagnosed with COVID-19 was 29% for race and 29% for ethnicity as of 5/3/20.

The percent Unknown for race/ethnicity across Washington State was 36% as of 5/3/20.

## Data Sources

- Laboratory test data are from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#) website.
- Diagnosed (Confirmed) with COVID-19, Underlying Condition, Congregate Care Setting Outbreak, Race and Ethnicity data are from the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, Division of Disease Control and Prevention.
- County population data are 2019 estimates for residents of all ages from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

## Definitions

- Resident
  - An individual is counted as a resident if they live within the geographic boundaries of Thurston County. People whose permanent residence or address of record is located in Thurston County would be included.
- Diagnosed with COVID-19 (Confirmed)
  - An individual is counted as diagnosed with COVID-19, also called a confirmed case, if they had a laboratory test for COVID-19 and the test was positive for the illness.

- Recovered/Recovering:
    - An individual diagnosed with COVID-19 is counted as recovered, if they are not hospitalized, and have been released from public health isolation. Individuals who recover from the symptoms of COVID-19 may have ongoing health problems or health problems in the future as a result of the illness.
  - Hospitalized:
    - An individual is counted as hospitalized if they were hospitalized at any time starting from the day diagnosed with COVID-19 to the day they were released from public health isolation. Individuals who die due to COVID-19 are included in the count, if they were hospitalized while being monitored by Public Health.
  - Deaths
    - An individual is counted as a COVID-19 death if they were diagnosed with COVID-19 and died due to health complications related to the illness.
  - Underlying Condition:
    - An individual is counted as having an underlying condition if, at the time of public health monitoring, a condition was identified through self-report by the individual, interviews, health care providers or medical records. Examples of underlying conditions of concern for COVID-19 are heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, asthma, chronic liver disease and cancer.
  - Congregate Care Setting:
    - Includes licensed facilities, such as nursing homes, assisted living, child care centers, schools, homeless shelters, jail, detention and other similar group care or placement settings.
  - Public Health Isolation:
    - Isolation means an individual was ill and required to separate themselves from other people to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 by order of the Thurston County Health Officer. Upon release from isolation, Public Health provides guidance on the current public health actions that should be followed for all residents (e.g. staying home, social distancing when away from home, handwashing). Public health isolation can last 14 or more days and includes special requirements for health care workers/first responders.
  - Race:
    - Race means the racial group or groups an individual says best describe them. Officially recognized racial groups include Asian, Black/African American, Native American (American Indian/Alaska Native), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and White.
      - If an individual identifies as being of two or more racial groups, they are included in the Multiracial group.
      - Individuals can choose Other as a racial group.
  - Ethnicity:
    - Hispanic is defined as an ethnicity and refers to an individual's culture or origin. An individual is described as either Hispanic or Non-Hispanic and can be of any race.
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## Contact Information

For additional data or more information about COVID-19 contact:

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department

- Phone: 360-867-2500
- WA Relay: 711 or 800-833-6338
- COVID-19 Website: <http://bit.ly/ThurstonCOVID-19>