



MONROE THIS WEEK

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nrga.org/Coronavirus

COVID-19: PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides updates on the extension of the Stay Home/Stay Healthy Order, state and local actions for a phased re-opening of the state's economy, a free local Census event, and a city Advisory Board vacancy.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

STAY HOME/STAY HEALTHY ORDER EXTENDED

Governor Inslee today extended his Stay Home/Stay Healthy Order through May 31. Details of the extension of the Order were provided by the governor this afternoon in a 2:30 p.m. press conference. Through this extension, public gatherings continue to be prohibited and businesses classified as "non-essential" will remain closed.



In today's press conference, the governor also outlined a four-phase plan for reopening the state's economy. Social distancing will need to be maintained throughout. Businesses will re-open at various phases and at increasing capacities based on industry. Phase 1 focuses on individual business services such as curbside retail, drive-up spiritual activities and carwashes. Phase 2 will re-open dine-in restaurants at 50% capacity and a per-table limitation of five persons, as well as additional outdoor recreation and professional service businesses such as pet care, pet grooming and barbershops and styling salons. Phases 3 and 4 will increase capacity of businesses already opened and eventually allow for the resumption of new construction projects, sporting events and gatherings of more than 50. Transitions between phases will occur based on data, and there will be at least three weeks between each phase.

First presented in a [press conference](#) on Wednesday, April 29, the governor detailed the metrics to be analyzed and evaluated between phases. Also announced in Wednesday's press conference was an allowed resumption of non-emergency elective medical procedures, if further delay of the procedure would cause harm to the patient within three months.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS: NEW COVID RELIEF PACKAGE TO BE PRESENTED IN TOWN HALL THURSDAY

The City will host its second virtual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Following introductions and welcome, Economic Development Specialist James Palmer will provide details on the following topics:

- The most recent round of stimulus funding from the Federal Government, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program;
- The Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant;
- How the Employment Security Department is handling unemployment benefits; and
- Governor Inslee's recent press conference regarding the path to re-opening the economy.



**New Covid Relief Package
(Covid 3.5)**



If you have questions, please email them to Mr. Palmer in advance at JPalmer@MonroeWA.gov; emailed questions will be answered during the meeting. Provided time is available, additional questions will be taken at the end of the meeting. Please see the [meeting announcement](#) for participation details.

COUNTY MAYORS OFFER TO ASSIST GOVERNOR IN DEVELOPMENT OF RECOVERY PLANS

It has been over a month since the initial outbreak of COVID-19. In that time, early and decisive actions by our community and our local and state elected leaders, while difficult, have helped protect the lives of countless residents. I am proud to say these actions and guidelines, and our adherence to them, have helped Snohomish County lead the state in flattening the curve.



As Mayor, I recognize the sacrifices made by Monroe residents and business owners in adhering to these guidelines. Over the past few weeks, I have heard from residents and employers. People want to do more than simply keep the curve flat, they want to help bend the curve downward. I have also heard a strong desire for a more concrete path forward for all segments of our community to return to work, recreate, shop, and worship, even if it means doing so with some limitations.

My fellow mayors across Snohomish County have heard similar feedback from their residents. Last week, we met remotely to discuss these concerns. Resulting from that meeting was a [letter to Governor Jay Inslee](#), signed by 16 Snohomish County mayors, including myself, as well as our District 5 County Councilmember Sam Low and County Council Chair Nate Nehring. This letter detailed our appreciation of the governor's leadership throughout this pandemic, as well as our willingness to assist the governor in building out a recovery plan for Washington State. Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin's office also released a [joint letter](#) to the Snohomish County community detailing our efforts to prepare for the next phase of response to the pandemic. I encourage you to take a moment to read both letters, and to reach out not just to local community leaders, but also to state and federal representatives and to our Governor to express your thoughts about COVID-19 and our communities' recovery.

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES INITIAL STEPS TO RE-OPEN STATE ECONOMY

Over the course of this past week, Governor Inslee announced initial plans for a partial reopening of the state's economy. First announced was a plan, informed by workers, contractors, health and safety experts, and local government officials, to allow [construction projects](#) previously underway to be

completed. In order to qualify for work resumption, construction projects must meet the standards developed by the governor's work committee, detailed in the above link.



Acknowledging that recreating is one of the best things individuals can do to promote physical, emotional and mental well-being in times of isolation and stress, the governor also announced a partial reopening of [outdoor recreation activities](#). While stressing that all reopened activities must be done within [appropriate social distancing guidelines](#), the governor announced that the following outdoor recreation activities will be allowed effective next Tuesday, May 5: fishing, hunting, playing golf, and day use at state parks and public lands managed by the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife.



CITY OPENS LIMITED ACCESS TO PARK FACILITIES

In conjunction with the Governor's reopening of limited outdoor recreation activities, the City will open limited parking for day use hiking and fishing access at city public parks beginning Tuesday, May 5. As required by the Governor's guidelines, only members of the same household may travel and recreate together, and gatherings are still prohibited. Please continue to maintain physical distancing of six feet between individuals outside your immediate family members while recreating.



The City will monitor compliance with social distancing requirements and updates to the Governor's Orders, and will make adjustments as necessary.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR 2020 CENSUS?

Join in a Census 2020 Promotional Free Curbside Lunch Giveaway event tomorrow, Saturday, May 2 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Courtesy of the [Snohomish County Census Alliance](#), 100 or more lunches will be provided by each of the [participating restaurants](#).



Monroe's Census [Response Rate](#) is just above 60%. You can help raise our response rate by completing the [2020 Census](#).

SUCCESS

As announced in [last week's edition](#) of *Monroe This Week*, the city recognized [Arbor Day](#) with the planting of a Pacific Sunset Maple. While practicing appropriate social distancing, Parks Department staff planted the tree next to the concrete stage at the south end of Lake Tye. I would like to again express the city's sincere thanks to the group of gardening enthusiasts who donated the tree in honor of the Monroe Garden Club. I have the honor of donating a second tree, which will be planted on the opposite side the stage at a later date when a public celebration can hopefully be held.



CITY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF SAFE BUILDINGS

This morning I issued a [Proclamation](#) declaring the month of May as Building Safety Month. Here in Monroe we recognize that our growth and strength depends on the safety and economic value of our homes, buildings and infrastructure. These buildings serve our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, and our confidence in the structural integrity of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the great work and devotion of diligent professionals. The theme of Building Safety Month 2020 is "Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World". I encourage you to read the full text of the Proclamation, which recognizes the essential service provided by our local members of the International Codes Council who ensure the safety of our residents and infrastructure.



CITY SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR VACANCY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Monroe is currently seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on the [Economic Development Advisory Board](#) (EDAB). In evaluating applications, the city seeks to ensure board membership includes a balance of business type, location and size. Members are appointed to a term of four (4) years. To be eligible for appointment, applicants shall be residents of Monroe or manage operations for a business or property located in Monroe; industries in which the city prefers experience and/or expertise can be found on the EDAB web page linked above. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the city's [Boards and Commissions Vacancies](#) page for an application form and additional information. Contact information for questions can be found on that



page as well.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the May 5 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Heather Rousey



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov

