



CITY OF ANACORTES

Laurie Gere, Mayor

904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221

www.anacorteswa.gov

PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF ANACORTES CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) ADVISORY INFORMATION

MARCH 2, 2020, ANACORTES, WASHINGTON.

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is spreading globally and we can expect to see more cases throughout Washington State. It is considered a low health risk in the United States and Washington State at this time. **The City of Anacortes and Skagit County do NOT have any reported cases of the COVID-19 virus at this time.**

The City of Anacortes and the Anacortes Fire Department are actively engaged with our local partners at Island Hospital and Skagit County Public Health as needs for community engagement efforts arise.

“The City of Anacortes, with our local health department and Island Hospital, are focusing on how to slow the spread of COVID-19 and be prepared. Our community has a large population of those who are over the age of 60 and it is known to cause more severe illnesses in those who have underlying medical conditions, therefore we want to especially be cautious. We are preparing to be more proactive rather than reactive to lessen the impact to our region,” says Mayor Laurie Gere.

Island Hospital Chief Executive Officer Charles Hall says, “As of today we are seeing signs of common colds, flu and other illness. We are receiving questions from our community about the coronavirus and are working to ensure these are answered. Island Hospital has been working closely with the region’s public health departments and has been consistently utilizing CDC-directed protocols to care for those who may show signs and symptoms of respiratory illness. At this time we are not caring for any patients who are being tested for, or have been diagnosed with coronavirus. Island Hospital is committed to doing all we can to care for our community and keep our residents informed.”



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WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO TO HELP?

We are taking this opportunity to remind our residents that it is always prudent to take precautionary measures to minimize risk exposure or slow the impacts of the virus.

Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce risk for spread of the virus:

- increase handwashing and use of alcohol-based sanitizer;
- improve respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette;
- avoid touching surfaces and then touching your face;
- enhance social distancing (>6 feet);
- frequently clean and disinfect high-touch and common surfaces; and
- remain home through the duration of respiratory illnesses.

The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have any questions about what is happening in Washington State, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, please call (800) 525-0127 and press the # key.

Please follow our Facebook Page for alerts: [Anacortes Fire Department Facebook](#)
Skagit County Public Health: [Novel Coronavirus Information](#)



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