

COVID-19 Information & Resources

Updated 4.1.21

I. Washington Information

Reopening & Virus Response:

- **Washington COVID-19 Virus Response:** Find resources for business and employers at Washington's COVID-19 website [here](#).
- **Healthy Washington Plan:** On January 7, Governor Jay Inslee has established a new reopening plan. The healthy Washington plan breaks the state into eight regions. All regions are currently in phase 2. The governor also announced that a new third phase of the Roadmap has been added, and effective Monday, March 22, the entire state will enter Phase 3. More detailed information can be found in [this article from the Governor's Office](#). Phase 1-3 guidance [here](#).
- **Vaccine distribution:** All adults will be eligible for vaccines April 15, but it's unclear what Washington's vaccine availability will be in April. Waste and transportation workers were tentatively included in [Phase 2](#) of the vaccination process. The latest on vaccines is available on the [DOH webpage](#). Currently Washington is in Phase 1B tier 3-4 of vaccine distribution. Phase 1 of vaccine distribution has been expanded to include:
 - April 12 – people with 2+ comorbidities who are 50 and older (1B-3)
 - April 26 – People with 2+ comorbidities who are 16 and older (1B-3)
 - April 26 – People, staff, and volunteers in congregate living settings (1B-4)
- WRAA has made contact with the Governor's Office and DOH on this issue and will continue to advocate for our essential industry's workers in writing and informally through this process.
- **CDC Guidance for Vaccinated People [here](#):**
 - If you've been fully vaccinated:
 - You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
 - You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
 - If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.
- **NWRA COVID-19 Guidance & Resources [here](#).**
- **SWANA COVID-19 Guidance & Resources [here](#).**

Employer Information:

- **Facial Coverings/ Masks for Businesses:** Face cover orders in place:
 - A [requirement for employers](#) to provide appropriate face coverings or masks to all employees who don't work alone.
 - L&I Guidance on mask types required for employees [here](#).
 - A [Department of Health statewide order](#) directing all individuals to wear a face covering in any indoor public setting or when outdoors and unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.
 - A governor's order directing businesses to require and enforce the use of face coverings by all customers or visitors.
 - Additional Q&A is available at the state [Department of Health](#). If you're an employer and have questions about the separate order regarding face coverings for employees, visit the state Department of Labor & Industries [common questions page](#).
- **COVID-19 Item 30 / UTC Response:** On March 17, the WUTC held a special open meeting by teleconference. At the meeting, new tariff language in Item 30 of many Solid Waste Collection Company tariffs was added to the consent agenda. WRRRA worked with Commission staff to develop language that provides for alterations of service in response to the public health emergencies. At the meeting, the Commissioner's expressed support for company action taken in response to the public health emergency, but encouraged all companies to include this language in their tariffs.
- **Employers must notify health department of COVID-19 spread in workplace:** Employers [must notify](#) the employer's [local health jurisdiction](#) within 24 hours if the employer suspects COVID-19 is spreading in the employer's workplace, or if the employer is aware of two or more employees who develop confirmed or suspected COVID-19 within a 14-day period.
- **Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Emergency Rulemaking:** This emergency rule addresses circumstances where businesses are prohibited from operating or where there are restrictions operating or conducting business activities.
 - Employers must not allow employees to perform work where a business activity is prohibited by an emergency proclamation.
 - Employers must comply with all conditions for operation required by emergency proclamation, including Safe Start phased reopening requirements for all business and any industry specific requirements.
 - Effective date: July 28, 2020 More information [here](#).
- **Washington, Oregon and California Western States Pact:** read about the coordination between western states & reopening in the announcement [here](#).
 - In a letter to Congressional leadership, governors and legislative leaders from five western states requested \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to preserve core government services like public health, public safety and public education, and help people get back to work. View the letter [here](#).
- **Working Washington Small Business Grants:** The Department of Commerce is accepting applications for the \$50 million in new small business grants announced by Gov. Inslee. Apply now at <http://startup.choosewashingtonstate.com/working-washington-round-3> and visit here

for [more info.](#)

- **Business Tax Relief in Response to New COVID-19 Guidance:** information [here.](#)

CDL Requirements:

- Governor Inslee suspended some requirements related to commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner permits (CLPs) that aligned with changes authorized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).
- Commercial Driver Licensing In-Cab Training and Testing COVID-19 Requirements: Effective May 5, 2020, in-cab driver training and testing for commercial driver license applicants in Washington State may take place under the conditions outlined in [this document.](#) Adherence to these requirements will be strictly enforced.
- **Commercial driver licenses & commercial learner permits extended through May 31, 2021:** more information [here.](#)

Governor Proclamations & WUTC Docs

- “HEALTHY WASHINGTON – ROADMAP TO RECOVERY” Proclamation 1.11.21 [here.](#)
- November 15 Travel Advisory & New Restrictions [here.](#)
- **Eviction and utility shut-off moratoriums:** [Extended through March 31.](#) The extension of the ratepayer assistance proclamation prohibits energy, water and landline telephone companies from:
 - Disconnecting any residential customers from energy, landline telephone or water service due to nonpayment on an active account, except at the request of the customer.
 - Refusing to reconnect any residential customer who has been disconnected due to nonpayment.
 - Charging fees for late payment or reconnection of energy, landline telephone or water service.
 - Disconnecting service to any residential customer who has contacted the utility to request assistance from the utility’s COVID-19 Customer Support Program.
 - This proclamation does not relieve customers from the obligation to pay for utility services. Customers and utilities are expected to continue to communicate in good faith with one another, and to work together, on the timing and terms of payment and repayment solutions.
- **Statewide Mask Requirement Proclamation** from [Department of Health.](#)
- **List of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers referenced** in Stay Home, Stay Health Proclamation 3.23.20 [here.](#)
- **Other proclamations on vehicle hours, high-risk employees etc.** related to the outbreak [here.](#)
- **UTC Adoption of Federal Guidelines Notice:** A notice from the UTC detailing the Commission’s implementation of federal policy and emergency actions for all transportation companies [here.](#)

Other Washington Resources (some sources may reflect 2020 information):

- **COVID-19 business resources for Washington State:** In response to the Governor's new COVID-19 guidance, the Department of Revenue plans to offer relief to impacted businesses. More info [here](#).
- **Essential Business Inquiries:** The Governor's Office has provided [guidance on what businesses are essential](#), building on the federal government's and California's definition of "essential critical infrastructure workers. To clarify status, or request inclusion on the list, [please fill out this form](#). More info here: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/business-workers>
- **Governor's Office:** Resources for employers and workers [here](#).
- **Employment Security Department:** Information for workers and businesses regarding federal stimulus, expanded unemployment, and emergency rulemakings [here](#).
 - **Refusal of work:** ESD's [Refusal of Work page](#) provides information about when someone can or cannot refuse an offer of work and retain unemployment benefits.
 - **Returning to work:** The [Return to work page](#) provides information and links to resources to maintain a skilled workforce, avoid layoffs and other important information.
- **Track Your Costs and Financial Relief Options.** It is recommended you track current losses attributable to COVID19. It is likely that FEMA or other federal funds will flow to State and to local governments and your company may be in line for reimbursement as well. Generally, in order to be eligible for funding reimbursement, entities must have very specific accounting for losses which are be clearly attributable to the emergency. Additionally, some companies may need prompt financial relief resulting from the added burden of carrying residential bad debt and a sharp drop in commercial solid waste service. Please see the information on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act below for funding options, including grants and loans.
- **RRCC Financial Analysis Tool:** This Financial Analysis Tool was developed and shared by our friends at the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC). The Instructions tab should give you the understanding you need of how this worksheet works. I believe it will help you understand and explain the financial impacts that you are/will experience during the disruption of your business due to COVID-19.

II. WRRRA COVID-19 Correspondence

To date WRRRA has sent two letters to Governor Inslee that discuss the current public health situation and request necessary regulatory relief to maintain maximum continuity of service throughout. WRRRA has also worked with UTC Staff to develop new language for Item 30 in the Solid Waste Collection Company Tariff.

- [WRRRA Regulatory Relief Letter to Governor Inslee 3.19.20](#)
- [WRRRA Regulatory Relief Letter to Governor Inslee 3.20.20](#)
- [WRRRA Suggested Language Item 30 3.6.20](#)

III. Federal Information

Center for Disease Control: The CDC issued a guidance “What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19” document following requests from industry associations. View the document [here](#). General CDC guidance [here](#).

- **High-risk employees:** As a result of new [CDC guidance](#) regarding people at increased risk for severe illness, Governor Inslee extended Washington proclamation [20-46.1](#). The guidance memo confirms that employees who are 65 and older continue to be covered by the proclamation and clarifies processes for employers of individuals with certain medical conditions. The [proclamation](#) will remain in effect through the duration of the state of emergency, or until otherwise rescinded or amended.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:

- FMCSA COVID-19 Guidance and resources [here](#).
- Emergency declaration [here](#) and FAQ that addresses the solid waste industry [here](#).
- FMCSA COVID-19 Drug & Alcohol Testing Guidance [here](#).
- Enforcement Notice on Expiring CDLs [here](#).
- FMCSA CDL Waiver-3.24.20 [here](#).

Department of Labor

- [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#). The FFCRA went into effect on **April 1**. The U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) has published [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\) poster](#) that **employers are required to post in a conspicuous place in their workplace**. The U.S. DOL also published [FAQs associated with the new posting requirements](#). Please also read the most recent guidance [FFCRA Q&A](#) on paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave provisions from the U.S. DOL that also went into effect on **April 1**.

COVID-19 Small Business Relief:

- **Small Business Loan Assistance:** The U.S. Small Business Administration will administer COVID-19 relief programs for small business owners, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits.
- One of the most important measures from the federal \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is the **Paycheck Protection Program**. It helps non-profits and small businesses (including sole proprietors, independent contractors and self-employed persons) cover payroll, rent, mortgage and utility costs.
- Please note: the program application window opened **April 3**, and that funds will be distributed on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Millions are estimated to be eligible, so it's important that Washington companies apply as soon as possible to ensure federal support.
- Guidance for Small Businesses and Employers impacted by COVID-19 is available also here:
 - [Small Business Administration Corona Virus landing page.](#)
 - [US Treasury Department Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Seattle Chamber of Commerce FAQ](#)
 - [Guidance on loan assistance from Prism Group](#)
 - [National Federation of Independent Business guidance on Paycheck Protections Program Forgivable Loan](#)
 - [Arnold & Porter Q&A on Small Business Loan Assistance](#)
 - [PPP Borrower Protection Sheet](#)
 - [Interim Final Rule](#)
 - [Tutorial on applying for SBA disaster assistance](#)
- **Senator Maria Cantwell:** webpage has information for small business assistance in Washington [here](#).
- **State Senator Carlyle:** Senator Carlyle has a resource page for Washington based businesses [here](#).
- **Q&A on Small Business Relief:** Senator Wyden of Oregon has provided a detailed Q&A on how the new programs work and how businesses qualify [here](#).

Other Federal Resources:

- **Center for Disease Control Guidance:** Essential Workers COVID-19 Exposure guidance [here](#).
- **Homeland Security CISA Guidance:** Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure workers available [here](#).
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** The EPA has release a memo on COVID-19 implications for EPA enforcement and compliance [here](#).
- **Department of Labor Family & Medical Leave:** Guidance on paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the families first coronavirus response act [here](#).
- **Center for Disease Control:** Resources for Businesses and Employers [here](#).

IV. Other Resources:

- **MSRC COVID-19 Resources** page [here](#).
- **WCRRRC Federal Status Report:** View the April 2020 federal status report from Eric Bock for more information and context on federal COVID-19 action [here](#).
- **Lexis-Nexis COVID-19 Resources:** Free resources from Lexis-nexis legal research. Includes memos on legal impacts of COVID-19 for employers and workers, draft policies, and regulatory activity trackers [here](#).
- **Association of Washington Cities:** Resource page includes resources for government, service providers, and business [here](#).

NWRA

- The National Waste and Recycling Association prepared a [COVID19 Guide for Waste Operations](#). The Guide outlines much of the information previously sent about OSHA/CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) noting that waste handling is not a COVID19 disease pathway. Exercising caution, using PPE, practicing good hygiene and social distancing are the best practices to stay safe on the job. ORRA and the national associations continue to monitor health, safety and worker protection concerns.
- NWRA has also hosted a series of webinar's discussing the COVID-19 Impact on the solid waste and recycling industry. View the archived webinars and documents below:
 - [Managing COVID-19 Waste](#)
 - [COVID-19 Focus on Work Practices](#)
 - [NWRA COVID-19 ACTIONS AND WINS](#)
 - [NWRA HWI COVID-19 FAQ](#)
 - [Small Business Loan Guide](#)
- NWRA also wrote letters to the [National Governors Association](#), the [National League of Cities](#) and the [National Association of Counties](#) urging regulatory flexibility from state and local governments.

Media Resources

- Waste 360 All COVID 19 Articles [here](#).
- Wastedive COVID-19 Tracker [here](#).
- SWANA COVID-19 Documents [here](#).