

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

State of Washington

In the Matter of Emergency Response to the  
COVID-19 Pandemic

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER—March 10th, 2022

**BACKGROUND**

1. On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation [20-05](#), which declared a State of Emergency in all Counties in Washington State to due to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus.
2. On March 10, 2020, the Jefferson County Health Officer issued a Public Health Order to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a pandemic.
4. On March 16, 2020, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners approved a Declaration of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. On March 23, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation [20-25](#) declaring that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all Counties in Washington State due to COVID-19. Proclamation [20-25](#) has been amended several times, most recently on February 17, 2022. Proclamation 20-25, et seq. limits Washingtonians’ ability to participate in certain activities unless certain conditions are met.
6. As a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, Governor Jay Inslee subsequently issued amendatory proclamations exercising his emergency powers under RCW [43.06.220](#) by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations.
6. The Jefferson County Public Health Department has confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Jefferson County. Given the current understanding about how COVID-19 spreads, including by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons, masks are an essential defense to the spread of COVID-19.
7. On August 12, 2021, Health Officers from all 35 local health jurisdictions in the State of Washington released the following recommendation: “The health officers from all 35 local health jurisdictions in Washington State have joined together to pass on their best public health advice to protect you, your family, and our communities. We recommend all residents wear facial coverings when in indoor public settings where the vaccination status of those around you is unknown. This step will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public, including customers and workers, help stem the increase in COVID-19

cases and hospitalizations in many parts of the state and decrease the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant.”

8. On August 13, 2021, local Public Health Orders were issued requiring masking when in indoor public spaces, offices, and businesses in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

9. On August 20, 2021, the State of Washington issued a mask mandate requiring masking in indoor public spaces, allowing an exemption to remove one’s mask when eating and drinking or when actively participating in athletics.

10. As of August 21, 2021, 495 outbreaks of COVID-19 have been tied traced to restaurants, and bars in Washington State. Localized transmission of COVID-19 and outbreaks related to restaurants and bars have been documented in Jefferson County. Indoor bars and restaurants are known to pose a high risk for COVID-19 transmission as they encourage unmasking of large groups of people indoors.

11. On September 2, 2021, local Public Health Orders were issued in Clallam and Jefferson Counties requiring all persons entering bars and restaurants to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.

12. As of February 28, 2022, 80.9% of Washingtonians five and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 73.2% of Washingtonians five and older are fully vaccinated.

13. On February 25, 2022, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance on mitigation measures for COVID-19.

14. On February 28, 2022, the State of Washington announced it will be lifting its masking order for most places effective March 11, 2022, including most businesses, child care facilities, government facilities, and schools, but not in health care facilities, like hospitals and doctor’s offices, and at long-term care facilities, prisons and jails, public transit, taxis, ride-hail vehicles and school buses.

15. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic there have been waves of increased risk of transmission, requiring implementation of stricter mitigations and safety protocols as recommended by public health officials.

16. As of March 1, 2022, the recent surge of cases and hospitalization due to the Omicron variant is subsiding in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

**ORDER**

*IT IS ORDERED*, by the Jefferson County Health Officer under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036 that effective at the same time the statewide mask mandate is lifted as announced by the State on February 28, 2022, currently scheduled for March 11, 2022 at 11:59 p.m., the Public Health Order dated August 13, 2021 requiring that all persons wear a mask at all times when indoors is hereby rescinded.

This issuance of this order has no impact on any State or Federal masking requirements which remain in effect at this time.

Given the current levels of COVID-19 in Jefferson County, it is recommended that individuals continue to wear masks to protect themselves and others from COVID-19, until COVID-19 case rates drop below 100 cases/100,000 population in a 2 week period.

*Ordered* this 10th day of March, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AB', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Allison Berry, MD, MPH

Jefferson County Health Officer