

## COVID-19 Updates

March 19, 2020

COVID-19: U.S. at a Glance\*

Total cases: 10,442 (+3404)

Total deaths: 150 (+53)

Washington at a Glance\*

Total Cases: 1187 (+175)

Total Deaths: 66 (+14)

### 1. State and Local Actions

**Washington State:** Yesterday, the Governor announced assistance for renters, workers, and small businesses. Measures include: a 30-day moratorium on evictions for residential renters; calling on utility providers to suspend disconnection tariffs for nonpayment, waiving late fees, offering payment plans, and expanding bill assistance; business assistance in the form of small grants to small business up to \$5 million from the Governor's Strategic Reserve Funds; and a mental health support line for individuals or families who need emotional or mental health support. Additionally, the Governor announced a waiver of the one week waiting period to receive unemployment insurance, applying retroactively to claims filed up to March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The State launched its [official COVID-19 website](#).

Following the US and Canada's joint agreement to close the US-Canadian border to non-essential crossings, the Washington State Ferry with [service to Canada is suspended](#) through April 28.

(See more on the Governor's Medium: <https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-announces-relief-for-businesses-workers-renters-and-more-in-response-to-covid-19-outbreak-c09c13a02690>)

**City of Seattle:** The City of Seattle budget director, Ben Noble, and his team estimated last week, that the city could see a \$110 million reduction in revenue as a result of the virus and business shutdowns. That 7% reduction in tax revenue is quickly becoming an outdated estimate. Sales tax, business-and-occupation tax, and utility tax revenue account for about 60% of Seattle's general fund.

The Seattle Police Department has ordered the self-quarantine of several police officers after a janitor at the SODO office park office tested positive for COVID-19. Two sources have stated that five police officers are currently in self-quarantine.

**King County:** In addition to the Issaquah and Bellevue isolation centers announced yesterday, King County has begun the process of converting a Shoreline soccer field into a 200-bed field hospital to expand capacity. The facility will be used almost exclusively for "people exposed to, at risk of exposure, or becoming ill with novel

coronavirus.” Shoreline officials noted that multiple field hospitals were being created throughout King County for those who are unable to stay in their own homes without the assurance they won’t infect other family members or are homeless.

Another step being taken by King County Metro is the reduction of bus services by 25% as ridership declines.

### Local Clips

- Seattle Times: [LIVE Coronavirus daily news updates, March 19: What to know today about COVID-19 in the Seattle area, Washington state, and the nation](#)
- KIRO 7: [Coronavirus: Gov. Inslee places 30-day moratorium on evictions as case numbers increase](#)
- Transportation Today: [Washington State suspends ferry service to Canada until at least April 28](#)
- Seattle Times: [Seattle government expecting revenue loss of more than \\$100 million as result of coronavirus](#)
- Seattle Times: [Seattle police officers may have been exposed to janitor sickened by coronavirus](#)

## 2. Federal Actions

**Executive Action:** This morning, the President held another press conference with the White House Coronavirus Task Force to discuss next steps in treatment options for the disease. The President and the head of the FDA, Dr. Stephen Hahn, announced that encouraging results were observed in the trials of two drugs that are currently in circulation for other diseases.

Yesterday, the President invoked the “Defense Production Act” giving the government power to steer the production of masks, ventilators and other medical equipment hospitals and medical professionals need to treat patients with the virus. The President has been hesitant about using the authority granted to him by the Act as congressional Democrats call for him to order private companies to assist in equipment production. Additionally, two medical military ships will be deployed to New York and an undisclosed location on the West Coast (Governor Inslee in a press conference yesterday noted that he had been in talks with the Trump administration to send that ship to Puget Sound).

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will suspend foreclosures and evictions of renters and homeowners through the end of April. The moratorium will apply only to homeowners with mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration. The Federal Housing Finance Agency also announced that it would suspend foreclosure and evictions for homeowners with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

The Administration is also asking Congress for \$500 billion to be distributed to Americans beginning in April in two installments of \$250 billion. The specific amount awarded to each individual or family is still in negotiation.

**Congressional Action:** Following the passage of the COVID-19 relief bill, President Trump signed legislation to provide Americans impacted by the coronavirus which mandates sick leave to workers who contract the virus. Additionally, the bill makes all diagnostic tests for the virus free. The aid package is worth \$100B.

**News Clips:**

- CNBC: [President Trump signs coronavirus relief plan to expand paid leave](#)
- Washington Post: [Live updates: Italy surpasses China's coronavirus death toll](#)
- The Hill: [Trump orders HUD to suspend evictions and foreclosures](#)

**3. Currently Reported Washington State Cases**

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington		
Updated on March 18, 2020 at 3:25 p.m.		
County	Positive/Confirmed Cases	Deaths
<a href="#">Chelan</a>	2	0
<a href="#">Clark</a>	4	3 (+1)
<a href="#">Columbia</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Franklin</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Grant</a>	8	1
<a href="#">Grays Harbor</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Island</a>	16	0
<a href="#">Jefferson</a>	4	0
<a href="#">King</a>	562	56 (+13)
<a href="#">Kitsap</a>	9	0
<a href="#">Kittitas</a>	4	0
<a href="#">Klickitat</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Lewis</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Lincoln</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Mason</a>	1	0
<a href="#">Pierce</a>	56	0
<a href="#">Skagit</a>	14	0
<a href="#">Snohomish</a>	310	6
<a href="#">Spokane</a>	4	0
<a href="#">Thurston</a>	6	0
<a href="#">Whatcom</a>	7	0
<a href="#">Yakima</a>	7	0
Unassigned	167	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1187 (+175)</b>	<b>66 (+14)</b>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

