

COVID-19 Council Update

April 20, 2019

Current Statistics as of 04/20/2020:

- 2,327 confirmed and probable cases within the Snohomish County – WA State 12,085
- 97 Deceased countywide – 652 deaths statewide
- GenCare Scriber Gardens (Lynnwood) now has 11 confirmed cases; 2 deaths (site specific testing occurred today, so we expect an increase in cases)
- Lynnwood Post-Acute Rehab now has 45 confirmed cases; 4 deaths (site specific testing occurred on Friday, which is the reason for the dramatic increase. 24-hour turnaround for tests)
- 422 Cases within Lynnwood
- 15 Fatalities in Lynnwood

Status Update:

- Our EOC remains activated at a level 3 and our EOC Command staff are in weekly communication with each other. We are now on our 4th operational Incident Action Plan (IAP). We have moved to updating these bi-weekly. The plan identifies our goals and strategies for the operational period, and includes the department COOP plans, staffing and contacts, and the organizational structure for each department and the EOC.
- The county quarantine/isolation site at Angel of the Winds Arena has been open for several weeks, however it has had relatively low utilization. This facility provides for 100 quarantine beds and 50 isolation beds. It is staffed with medical personnel, on-site private security, and 24/7 LE. It is designed to house people that cannot otherwise self-quarantine at home. They are evaluating the site and may scale back size and location if demand remains low.
- A joint effort was launched on Friday to do targeted outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community called SAFE Teams. Physicians, paramedics, social workers, and law enforcement officers will be visiting camps where homeless individuals are known to congregate throughout the County, to screen individuals for COVID-19 and provide them resources. Any individual exhibiting symptoms will be offered a referral to the County's quarantine site while they wait for testing results. The Lynnwood Police Department's Community Health and Safety Section is participating in this effort in addition to the outreach efforts they are currently undertaking.
- The CDC, President's COVID Task Force, DOH and our Health District recommendations are that healthy individuals wear face coverings when out in public for essential activities. Our EOC has ordered 500 cotton face coverings, and we will be looking to purchase an additional 1,500 for our city employees. The first shipment was distributed to our essential employees who have contact with members of the public. A second shipment was distributed to other critical staff on Friday. More masks will arrive this week, and in the following weeks, and they will be distributed to remaining staff members as the shipments arrive and we begin to transition many of our telecommuting workforce back to city buildings. Additionally, the EOC is purchasing an additional supply of N95 masks to replenish our supply and get us through the summer and into the fall.

- The Everett drive through testing site has been demobilized as of 04/16/2020. The Health District is focusing testing resources now on senior living facilities. On Friday SHD held testing for patients/residents and staff at Lynnwood Post-Acute Rehab, which at the time had approximately 15 cases. These tests were completed late Saturday and showed a significant increase in positive cases, for a total of 46. The fatality count also increased to 4. Commander Steichen spoke to both the epidemiologist with the health district and the Executive Director at Lynnwood Post-Acute. The vast majority of cases involved asymptomatic staff and patients. An increase was suspected with focus and improved testing. The facility feels it has the situation well under control and has not asked for any assistance. We did ask that they contact us should they need help. This same focused testing occurred at GenCare Scriber Garden today and we anticipate a case count to be released tomorrow or Wednesday.
- Governor Inslee held a press conference on Wednesday April 15th and he outlined some guidelines for how/when the state would begin to reopen. He wants to see some of the following in place prior to lifting restrictions:
 - Infection rates continue to decrease
 - Testing and contact tracing increases dramatically
 - Appropriate amounts of PPE for first responders and healthcare workers.
- On 04/16/2020 Governor Inslee extended and expanded the eviction moratorium through June 4th. The expanded moratorium now includes other types of dwellings such as room rentals, campgrounds, extended stay motels. Prohibits landlords from raising rent or deposits, or assessing late fees. It also states that all rent payments delayed through the moratorium are to be paid back and the landlord must offer a reasonable repayment plan.
- The Washington State Employment Security Department has launched a massive update of its computer systems with the goal of ensuring people can successfully file for expanded unemployment benefits enabled by the Federal CARES Act. Every hour, thousands of people are applying for unemployment benefits which has caused system performance issues. While ESD works to address system performance issues they are reminding customers who are having difficulty applying or filing weekly claims the following:
 - You don't have to apply on Sunday – it is not first-come-first served and there is no risk to funds running out. You can apply anytime.
 - Payments are retroactive to your eligibility date. This means that, once you have successfully applied and backdated your start date, your first payment will be for all weeks for which you are eligible.
 - Weekly claims can be filed Sunday through Saturday every week. They can also be filed over the automated phone system at: 800-318-6022
 - E-services is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The busiest times tend to be in the morning. We recommend trying during off hours.
 - If you are having difficulty filing your application, please visit our help page <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/help>
- Commander Chuck Steichen and Julie Moore participate in daily calls from the SnoCo DEM and the Health District.
- Mayor Smith participates in regular calls with County Executive Somers and all County Mayors and Tribal leaders.
- On Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays we conduct city COVID meetings to assess our response, staffing issues, mitigation efforts and communications. These meetings include select EOC Command Staff, the HR Director, Mayor Smith and the City

Administrator Ceniza. We additional cover city COVID updates at the Tuesday leadership meeting.

- We continue to be in close communication with South County Fire and Rescue. We speak throughout the week about activities, protective measures, strategies, and operations.
- Our parks playgrounds, sports courts, playfields and skatepark remain closed, but we are keeping parks open space, trails, and parks bathrooms open. The bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized twice daily.
- The impacts of COVID-19 on our overall workforce have been negligible. As of this morning only 2.19% of our workforce is currently on sick leave. We have had one confirmed positive COVID-19 employee, and that employee is now back at work. We only have four employees currently in isolation.
- Utilization of telecommuting has been very successful. Outside of our essential employees from Public Works, Police Department, and Parks & Rec, approximately 67% of our staff are telecommuting.
- Commander Chuck Steichen has submitted an application for a federal Department of Justice Byrne grant. It is a formula grant with an award of \$37,845. That will cover PPE, sanitation equipment, a FIT test machine, as well as other supplies and costs associated with the police department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Messaging continues to be a critical component of our City's response to this public health emergency. It is important for us to be actively communicating with our community members regarding important health messaging, community resiliency and engagement efforts.
 - A city wide postcard was sent encouraging community members to stay home and stay healthy and included information on how to connect to city community channels.
 - The Lynnwood Senior Center released a special edition of The Messenger. The Messenger is mailed directly to all Lynnwood Senior Center Members, and we released it through eNews and social media. It contained lots of helpful information to help reach out to our older adults and support them in their efforts to stay home and stay healthy.
 - We released a video message to our community and it has been very well received.
 - We continue to update and add additional resources to our www.LynnwoodWA.gov/COVID-19 webpage.
- We have just launched a community resiliency effort called *Lynnwood Connects Call-In*. The Lynnwood Connects Check-In program is a weekly phone call to see how residents are doing and share a friendly conversation. The calls are intended to provide an opportunity to connect to those who may be feeling socially isolated by linking individuals with a friendly, caring City of Lynnwood staff member. Check-In calls can be provided in Arabic, Chinese, German, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian.
- We continue to support our business community by serving as a resource and connector to the variety of business resources such as how to access the federal stimulus resources, grants, and loans that are available now, and those coming soon. We are also promoting our businesses that are remaining open through our Open For Business webpage www.LynnwoodWA.gov/OpenForBusiness.
- Snohomish County is pulling together an 'Economic and Workforce Recovery Task Force'. This task force will be made up of public, private, and non-profit sector officials and will be tasked to develop direct actions to support the economic stabilization,

recovery, and resiliency of businesses in Snohomish County and those workers who have been laid-off as a result of the pandemic. This Task Force will work closely with Governor Inslee's recently formed Task Force to support Washington state businesses. Mayor Smith has nominated four people from Lynnwood to serve on this task force.

- We continue to support and be in close communication with our partners at the Lynnwood Food Bank, Homage Senior Services, the Edmonds School District and Foundation for Edmonds School District, all of whom are providing food to our community members. We are supporting these operations by way of recruitment of volunteers and/or helping to promote the need for monetary donations and food donations.
 - The Lynnwood Food Bank is continuing to report increasing numbers of families served during their Wednesday and Friday distribution days. Last week they reported serving 682 households – accounting for 2,615 individuals. 42% of those households are new to the Food Bank. This increase is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. The City has been helping to recruit volunteers for the Food Bank and at this time they have had adequate volunteer support. Our Patrol Division of the Lynnwood Police Department is assisting with traffic control on food distribution days to help manage the overflow onto 52nd Ave and on. The Verdant Health Commission recently gave the Food Bank a grant for the purchase of meat, eggs, and dairy. They will begin receiving dry goods from Foodline in late April, extending into May. Food security is also a top priority of Snohomish County DEM and they are also working to support food banks.
- Verdant Health Commission is partnering with several local organizations during the COVID-19 crisis to help support our local community. To date, Verdant has invested over \$189,000 to support access to nutritious food, access to mental health services, and most recently they have helped to fund the Emission's Hygiene Site. Their funding has gone towards the Lynnwood and Edmonds Food Banks, Foundation for Edmonds School District, the Center for Human Services, and Project Access Northwest, the Korean Women's Association, Compass Health, ChildStrive, and the Jean Kim Foundation
- In the coming weeks we will be planning for what life looks like after the Governor's Stay Home-Stay Health Order is lifted. We will be looking for guidance from the Health District as to what protocols they will recommend. Specifically, SHD is working on guidance for cities regarding summer event programming. Our team will incorporate those recommendations into our programming and our engagement efforts.