

**This COVID-19 FAQ provides the latest information about State and Local Orders in San Juan County.**

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### **Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Healthy Order**

Gov. Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Order is effective through at least May 4th. The Order requires Washington residents to stay home. People can leave home for certain essential activities, working on an "essential business" and exercise. The Order also banned almost all public and private gatherings. Separation and distancing among those not in the same household are required.

#### **Essential Business:**

The Governor's Order closed non-essential businesses.

Businesses that can operate using telework should continue to do so. For businesses where individuals cannot work from home, the Governor's Office has provided guidance on what businesses are essential here: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed/essential-business>

Some examples of essential businesses:

- Grocery Stores
- Pharmacies
- Banks
- Gas Stations
- Hardware stores
- Restaurants, food services offering TAKE OUT only and NO indoor or outdoor seating
- Washington State Ferries
- Travel to grocery stores and food banks, pharmacies, gas stations, urgent or emergency medical care, caring for an elderly or sick family member, and travel to work for essential personnel.
- Garden stores and nurseries that support food cultivation and production
- Office supply stores that support working-from home
- Home appliance retailers

Who can still go to work:

- Emergency responders (i.e. Sheriff, EMS, Dispatchers, Fire, Emergency Operations Staff)
- Healthcare workers
- Critical industry workers – including (but not limited to):  
Postal employees; food suppliers; grocery store employees; farm workers; OPALCO and other utilities employees; ferry, road and aviation workers (some air services have been temporarily suspended); trucking and cargo workers; workers providing core local government services including San Juan County, Town of Friday Harbor, special districts)

### **Construction Activity:**

In general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized and not considered to be an essential activity. The Governor’s Order allows for some construction in the following limited circumstances:

- Construction related to essential services described in the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order
- Construction to further a public purpose related to a public entity or governmental function or facility, including but not limited to publicly financed low-income housing
- Construction to prevent and avoid damage, unsafe conditions and spoliation and to address emergency repairs at both non-essential businesses and residential structures
- All construction activity must meet social distancing and appropriate health and worker protection measures

More detailed information about [current guidance on construction is available here](#).

For specific information from the Governor’s office about what activity is allowed or not allowed you can learn more here- <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/inslee-provides-construction-guidance-and-signs-proclamations-ui-rules-healthcare>

Learn more about the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order and other statewide measures in effect at [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov).

### **Essential Activity:**

What is allowed:

- You can go to the store for groceries
- You can still go to restaurants for take out orders
- You can go to the pharmacy
- You can go to medical appointments
- You can go out and get exercise

### **San Juan County Health Officer’s Order**

On March 25, 2020, San Juan County Health Officer Frank James M.D. issued an Order effective until at least May 4, 2020. This Order applies to activities in San Juan County.

### **Playgrounds and County/Town Parks:**

All playgrounds and playground equipment located in San Juan County that are accessible to the public or to groups of persons are closed. Those portions of public parks or privately owned areas open to the public that are outside of playgrounds or play equipment are not closed by this Order; but a notice should be posted that group activities are not allowed and that users must engage in social distancing by maintaining separation of at least six feet from other persons who are not members of their household or residential living unit.

### **Transient Accommodations and Campgrounds.**

Owners and operators of transient accommodations (such as hotels and resorts) or campground and camping facilities are allowed to do business only with persons for whom such accommodations or facilities are required (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, (2) for employment in essential business services, or (3) as otherwise provided by Governor Inslee's Orders.

Transient accommodations are commercial or residential use involving the rental of any structure or portion thereof for the purpose of providing lodging for periods less than 30 days.

### **Notice by Ports and Marina Facilities.**

The Health Officer's Order requires owners and operators of all port and/or marina facilities in San Juan County to post notice at entry and exit points indicating that travel for purposes other than what is allowed by the Governor's Order is prohibited. Any travel that is not in compliance with Governor Inslee's Orders may be unlawful.

In order to ensure compliance with the Governor's proclamation limiting all non-essential travel, marina operators should not be renting transient moorage or dock space to vessel owners traveling for non-essential reasons.

Providers of marine passenger transportation in San Juan County, including but non-limited to Washington State Ferries and commercial providers, must post prominent notice at entrance and exit points on each vessel providing passenger service indicating that travel for purposes other than what is allowed by the Governor's Order is prohibited.

This notice requirement does not apply to individuals using their own vessels for personal use.

The full text of the March 25, 2020 Order can be found here:

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/20042/San-Juan-County-Health-Officer-Order-2020-1>

## **Enforcement**

### **A. General**

All Washington law enforcement are united on the premise that police action is extremely undesirable, and we hope to educate citizens if congregating or working in violation of the Governor's Order. Citation or arrest would be the last resort if a citizen failed to comply with the lawful direction of a police officer.

Islanders have been demonstrating that they understand the severity of the situation, and we hope that common sense and a desire to help the entire community will prevail. Most of us are doing all we can to keep ourselves, our families and neighbors safe and healthy. For those who are not, now is the time to start.

## B. The Governor's Order

But violations of the Governor's emergency proclamations are a crime, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine. You can find the statute here:

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.06.220>

If you want to report suspected violations of the governor's orders regarding essential business functions, evictions, and social distancing, **DO NOT CALL 911**.

You can report the violation of a business to the Governor here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/09349a1c56844b539fea1c2cabd16d56>

Or you can call the San Juan County Sheriff's office number dedicated to Covid 19 enforcement: (360) 370-7609 x7609, or email [covid-19tipshotline@sanjuanco.com](mailto:covid-19tipshotline@sanjuanco.com)

If a business or individual fails to comply after the Sheriff's Office intervenes, the agencies responsible for public safety could take formal enforcement actions, including citations, restraining orders, suspension notices, revoking someone's business license, potential criminal charges, and even a Consumer Protection Act violation action.

## C. The Health Officer Order

Violations of health officer orders are a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. You can find the statute here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.05.120>

If you want to report suspected violations of the Health Officer's Order, **DO NOT CALL 911**- call the San Juan County Sheriff's office number dedicated to Covid 19 enforcement: (360) 370-7609 x7609, or email [covid-19tipshotline@sanjuanco.com](mailto:covid-19tipshotline@sanjuanco.com)

## **Other Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Are face masks required when I'm out?**

People are not legally required to wear masks at this time, but the Health Officer strongly recommends that Islanders cover their mouth and nose when in public and in proximity to others.

Find out more here: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/20134/200405-Cover-the-Face>

### **What about kids or adults who congregate in a place like a park or beach?**

Like adults found to be congregating in a location, deputies will likely approach the youths and educate them on the orders. Citations and arrest are extremely unlikely, reserved for only the most extreme circumstances.

### **Have County Officials Changed the way they work as a result of the Governor's Proclamations?**

Yes. The County Council has changed the way it works in response to Proclamation 20-25 and Proclamation 20-28 regarding the Open Meeting Act and Public Records Act. In person meetings are prohibited. The County Council has developed procedures to allow the public to attend its meetings telephonically. Council meetings also continue to be live streamed on the County's website. In accordance with Proclamation 20-28 public meetings of the County Council and it's boards and commissions are limited to (1) matters that are necessary and routine; and (2) matters necessary to the COVID-19 outbreak and the current public health emergency.

All elected officials have modified the work at their offices to support employees working from home as much as possible. Changes have been made by the Courts, Court Clerk, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer. Most offices are closed to in-person meetings and transactions. The superior court is now live streaming its proceedings so you do not need to observe at the courthouse. You are encouraged to contact those officials first by phone or email so as to minimize person to person contact as much as feasible.

Find out more about what is has changed and what offices are open and closed to the public here:

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1687/Department-Service-Status>