



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

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CLALLAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS SCHOOLS START THE FALL REMOTELY

Clallam County, WA — Clallam County has experienced a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases in recent days. The current rate of COVID-19 cases is 94 per 100,000 population in the last 14 days, well above the 75 cases/100,000 threshold to declare our county as high risk.

After consulting with local superintendents, in acknowledgement of the current state of virus transmission in our community, and out of concern for the safety of students and staff, the Clallam County Department of Health recommends that all schools in Clallam County start the fall with remote learning.

“We do not make this decision lightly,” notes Clallam County Health Officer Dr. Allison Berry Unthank. “We know that this will have serious implications for children and working families in our area, but we have to make the safety of students, staff, and families our first priority.”

Local and state guidelines on safe reopening of schools do allow for limited in-person instruction of children with special educational needs. Each district has been working on plans to accommodate these children.

Our recommendation is that schools consider reopening for limited in-person learning when our local rate has been less than 75 cases/100,000 population for 4 weeks of more.

“We all want our kids in the classroom,” reports Dr. Allison Berry Unthank. “We have to come together as a community to make that possible, by practicing safe physical distancing, avoiding gatherings, washing our hands and wearing masks. Our kids and our working families are depending on us.”

Clallam County residents are urged to:

- Keep your social circle small – no more than 5 people in a week
- Maintain a safe physical distance of 6 feet from others
- Wear a face covering when you are around others
- Stay home if you are sick
- Get tested right away if you are feeling ill or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19
- Wash your hands frequently
- Clean commonly touched surfaces frequently

Read the Washington State Department of Health Guidelines for Safe Reopening of Schools [here](#). Find additional COVID-19 information at [Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus Page](#) Find local COVID-19 updates at [Clallam County - Coronavirus Information](#)