



Yakima Health District

Media Release

For immediate release: June 26, 2020

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COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts in Yakima County Demonstrating Success

YAKIMA, WA- The Institute for Disease Modeling (IDM) released a new report which reviews data that suggests progress in Yakima County. The report states:

“In Yakima county, we see a decline in COVID-19 cases consistent with declining prevalence from an estimated peak in late May, suggesting that recent public health focus and mitigation efforts are having some success.”

The report reviews statewide data through June 17, 2020. The report states that Yakima County’s R0 has gone down to an estimate of **1**. What this means, is that for everyone 1 person in Yakima County who is infected with COVID-19, we can expect that they will infect an average of 1 additional person. In addition to this report, recent testing data shows that the percent of positive COVID-19 tests are also declining. Several weeks ago, the percent of positive COVID-19 tests reached a high of **30%**, this statistic has since dropped to **25.4%**. Finally, let’s not forget the tremendous effort of moving from **35%** of Yakima County residents masking in public over Memorial Day Weekend to **65%** of masking this last weekend.

These new developments have been made possible by each community member doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Yakima Health District, the hospitals, and the clinics, have not been able to do this alone. The community’s success has also been aided by the support of our local businesses and local leaders. It is very clear that coming together as a community is how we will slow the spread of COVID-19 in our county, and is the route we must continue to take to re-open our community as soon as is safely possible.

Let’s ensure that we continue to work together to get our R0 as close to zero as possible, to see our percent of positive tests continue to decline, to see our community masking increase, and ultimately to ensure that our hospitalizations also decrease and ease the burden on our healthcare systems.

Current Public Health Recommendations

1. Stay at home as much as possible
2. Do not gather with other people outside of your immediate household for things like parties, barbecues, large family dinners.
3. If you must go out, ensure at least 6 feet, or 2 meters, of distance between yourself and another person
4. Wear a mask every time you are in a public setting where you can’t maintain physical distance
5. Wash your hands frequently, sanitize surfaces frequently
6. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, get tested within 24 hours
7. If you experience any time of illness symptoms, stay at home.

QUOTES

Yakima Health District:



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“The data is in, and the results are clear: our collective efforts are working. Let’s continue to work together to further slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, and show that we have the commitment to safely open up sooner rather than later.” said Dr. Teresa Everson, Health Officer at the Yakima Health District.

Additional Information:

[IDM Report](#)

[Yakima, Together](#)

[Washington State Risk Assessment Dashboard](#)

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