In my weekly newsletter, I cover all that is happening in Renton, including the most current COVID-19 updates and information from state and federal officials and agencies. Google Translation available on the website. For additional translation services contact communications@rentonwa.gov.

2020 Census return rate tops 70%
Congratulations! Our 2020 Census return rate sits at 70.1%, the best among our neighboring South King County cities and fourth in the state for cities with at least 100,000 residents. The rate is 2.9% higher than in 2010, also tops in South King County.

By returning your 2020 Census, you have made a substantial investment in our city’s future, and I thank you. Topping 70% results from hard work by city staff and a dedicated team of community volunteers. It also took developing a plan that obtained and then allocated resources where they were most needed. But like most plans, there were roadblocks, the most significant being COVID-19. When the pandemic hit with full force, we shifted from large and small community meetings to one-to-one meetings or used available technology. These volunteers, who comprised the Renton Complete Count Committee and Renton’s Census Ambassadors, would be delayed. They put on drive-through events and small gatherings while remaining connected by COVID-19 along with census information. They organized food drives and student art contests. They took part in online meetings and replace services to talk about the importance of responding to the census. It was a dramatic and effective campaign under the most unusual of circumstances.

They’re not done. The Complete Count Committees met yesterday to develop plans to reach those sections of the city that are undercounted. I can’t wait to see what they have in store.

It’s not too late to send in your census response, either online or through the mail. Earlier this month, census takers started going door-to-door to those Renton households who have not yet responded. If one comes to your dwelling, please give them your cooperation. These census takers are Renton residents, trained in all COVID-19 guidelines, and authorized by the federal government to conduct these interviews. They’re allowed access to all properties, including apartments and rentals, under Title 13 (Sections 141 & 223).

If you have questions about census takers, please contact the regional census center in Los Angeles, which covers Washington, at 213-314-6500 and speak with a Census Bureau representative.

With our committees’ combined efforts and the census takers’ work, I know that 70% is just a plateau, and our response rate will continue to increase.

Police launch community survey
Members of our Renton Police Department have always done a fantastic job connecting with and learning to our community. Today, their efforts have never been more critical.

As part of their efforts to engage and measure law enforcement needs and expectations, they have launched a survey about policies, practices and procedures.

The survey asks respondents to rank topics from one (least important) to five (most important). Topics include the use of cameras, use of force, bias training and officer-involved shootings.

I hope you will take a couple of minutes to take the survey. The results will tell the department what you are thinking and help them direct resources and time. The survey launched today and will expire on August 12.

On Monday, Renton Police Department officers and staff paid tribute to K9 Zev, who passed away July 4. Officer Dave Adam, Zev’s partner, was presented the United States flag that was flown above city hall for five minutes, one minute for each of Zev’s five years of service to Renton’s residents.

Parade of Positivity
Staff from Community Service’s Recreation Division decorated nine vehicles and spent part of Thursday afternoon visiting residents in three of Renton’s 55+ developments, Leisure Estates, Solstice Estates and Vantage Glen. In addition to letting the residents know how much they were missed at city functions, they also passed out masks and cheesecake.

The city’s census volunteers used community COVID-19 support efforts to helpSeniors complete their census forms.

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If your business meets these requirements, you could get up to $15,000:

**Small Business Relief Grant Program**

**Economic Development**

Providing Public Comment

Renton City Hall is closed, so in-person comments will not be accepted; however, Renton residents are encouraged to participate in a variety of ways.

Councilmembers will be attending their meetings remotely. Due to security concerns, the video conference identification number is not being shared. Attendees will be able to listen to and watch the meeting online. 

City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Most services are available online at rentonwa.gov.

Don't forget to complete your 2020 Census.

City Council

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The text content is too long to be provided here. Please use the provided tools to access the full content.
• Donations to food banks provide financial assistance to three organizations that supply food to local children and families.
• In-kind donations to the Salvation Army provide critical supplies for disaster relief efforts.
• Gift cards and monetary donations are accepted for those in need.

10. COVID-19 Site Supervisor

A site supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all COVID-19-related health and safety measures are followed at the job site. The COVID-19 site supervisor must be present at all times during construction activities.

11. Social Distancing and Mental Health

- Medicare Advantage: Washington State Department of Health
- Social Security Administration
- SAMHSA
- MDHHS: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

12. Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.

13. Make sure you eat balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid excessive drinking and drug use.

14. Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, or playing video games. Listen to music, read a book, or do something else to relax.

15. Make a plan to get regular physical activity. This can include taking a walk, doing yoga, or playing a sport.

16. Avoid contact with sick persons and practice proper hygiene, including washing your hands frequently and avoiding touching your face.

17. If you are feeling stressed or anxious, talk to a mental health professional or seek support from friends and family.

18. If you or someone you know is suffering from mental illness, contact the Mental Health Association of King County at 425-374-6545 or 1-866-424-3490.

19. If you are feeling depressed or suicidal, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or text ‘HOME’ to 741741.

20. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, contact the King County Crisis Line at 206-296-0911 or 1-866-297-8774.

21. If you or someone you know is feeling anxious or depressed, contact the King County Department of Community Health at 206-470-4300.

22. If you or someone you know is feeling lonely or isolated, contact the King County Community Health Line at 206-470-4300.

23. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, contact the King County Mental Health Crisis Line at 206-470-4300.

24. If you or someone you know is feeling anxious or depressed, contact the King County Behavioral Health Crisis Line at 206-470-4300.

25. If you or someone you know is feeling lonely or isolated, contact the King County Social Work Crisis Line at 206-470-4300.

26. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, contact the King County Substance Use Disorder Services at 206-470-4300.

27. If you or someone you know is feeling anxious or depressed, contact the King County Suicide Prevention Line at 206-470-4300.

28. If you or someone you know is feeling lonely or isolated, contact the King County Elderly Services at 206-470-4300.

29. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, contact the King County Children’s Safety Services at 206-470-4300.

30. If you or someone you know is feeling anxious or depressed, contact the King County Youth Services at 206-470-4300.

31. If you or someone you know is feeling lonely or isolated, contact the King County Family Services at 206-470-4300.

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Renton is ideal location for COVID-19 vaccine facility

City of Renton, King County: Renton ideal location for COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing facility.

Renton mayor says city is "ideal" location for COVID-19 vaccine facility.

Renton is looking to be center for coronavirus vaccine production.

Public Works

All parks are open. 

Coulon Park to have reduced hours and access on July 4.

Renton Responds

Virtual and neighborhood calendars are available on Patch.com.

Renton mayor says city is "ideal" location for COVID-19 vaccine facility.

Best Start for Kids

Tips for teaching your child with special learning needs

OSPI's Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District releases plan to restart high school education in the fall.

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Metro

- Renton schools 2020-2021 reopening plan
- Public Health - Seattle & King County supports decision by Mayor Durkan to move King County into Phase 3

Republic Services

- For certified service providers, and all personal protective equipment must be disposed in the garbage. These materials do not belong in your blue cart.
- Republic Services has put into effect new temporary guidelines for waste collection. These include limited access to curbside collection for the public and their drivers. All recycling and organics materials must be placed in a cart or can or bagged outside of the cart. No recycling or organics container may be collected. Extra waste must be placed in a cart, or on sidewalks outside of regular curbside collection windows. These extra collection and sweep collections are scheduled to begin sometime in June.
- Businesses with solid waste accounts and temporary closed as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Republic Services (206-778-8440) must receive temporary hold and businesses MUST NOT reinstate service to any facility that reports being closed due to public health. All COVID-19 holds will be reinstated once a facility announces openings that are not considered essential by Washington State. King County is still in phase 3, and will not result in a public health problem. All COVID-19 holds will be reinstated once a facility announces openings that are not considered essential by Washington State.

Shelters

- Families without shelter, and all personal protective equipment must be disposed in the garbage. These materials do not belong in your blue cart.
- Seattle is open Friday and Saturday and North Seattle is open Sunday and Monday.

Highway

- Sultan
- Mary’s Place
- A Home Place
- Hospitality House
- Catholic Community Services

Restaurants

- What’s Open Eastside
- Downtown Renton
- General Renton
- Bellevue
- Kent

Solid Waste

- Additional service rules are normal schedule. Questions? Contact Republic Services at 206-778-8440.
- Republic Services will waive late fees and penalties and will not activate any service suspensions for 90 days. Republic Services will also put into effect new temporary guidelines for waste collection. These include limited access to curbside collection for the public and their drivers. All recycling and organics materials must be placed in a cart or can or bagged outside of the cart. No recycling or organics container may be collected. Extra waste must be placed in a cart, or on sidewalks outside of regular curbside collection windows. These extra collection and sweep collections are scheduled to begin sometime in June.
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Metro

- Metro Matters
- Windows
- Change in service due to COVID-19

Women’s Shelters & Day Centers

- Kent Hope

ReACH

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- Men’s Shelter

Resources

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- Businesses with solid waste accounts and temporarily closed as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Republic Services (206-778-8440) must receive temporary hold and businesses MUST NOT reinstate service to any facility that reports being closed due to public health. All COVID-19 holds will be reinstated once a facility announces openings that are not considered essential by Washington State. King County is still in phase 3, and will not result in a public health problem. All COVID-19 holds will be reinstated once a facility announces openings that are not considered essential by Washington State.

Metro

- Metro Matters
- Windows
- Change in service due to COVID-19

Women’s Shelters & Day Centers

- Kent Hope

ReACH

- Women’s Shelters
- Family Shelter
- Men’s Shelter

Resources

- For certified service providers, and all personal protective equipment must be disposed in the garbage. These materials do not belong in your blue cart.
- Republic Services has put into effect new temporary guidelines for waste collection. These include limited access to curbside collection for the public and their drivers. All recycling and organics materials must be placed in a cart or can or bagged outside of the cart. No recycling or organics container may be collected. Extra waste must be placed in a cart, or on sidewalks outside of regular curbside collection windows. These extra collection and sweep collections are scheduled to begin sometime in June.
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King County Response

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### Governor's Actions

- **March 1**: Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant program to assist small businesses (1-10 employees including proprietors) through the COVID-19 pandemic.
  
- **March 1**: Washington Governor announces one-time rental moratorium to some low-income residents due to COVID-19.
  
- **March 3**: Governor issues Safe Start proclamation to reopen the state's economy.
  
- **March 21**: Governor announces assistance for homeowners unable to make mortgage payments.
  
- **March 24**: Governor extends Safe Start proclamation, issues facial coverings guidance.
  
- **March 29**: Governor signs bill package to support state efforts.
  
- **April 1**: Governor releases additional Safe Start Phase 1 guidance.
  
- **April 8**: Governor provides additional guidance on school closures.
  
- **April 10**: Governor waives state income tax penalties.
  
- **April 13**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
  
- **April 17**: Governor extends proclamation for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
  
- **April 21**: Governor issues guidance to clarify limits on elective surgeries.
  
- **April 23**: Governor announces easing of outdoor restrictions.
  
- **April 27**: Governor extends proclamations for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
  
- **April 27**: Governor issues guidance to clarify limits on elective surgeries.
  
- **May 4**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
  
- **May 5**: Governor announces funding for crisis intervention.
  
- **May 8**: Governor announces new out-of restrictions.
  
- **May 12**: Governor announces that Washington State Department of Commerce awards 500 WISH (Workforce Investment Statewide) grants to Washington small businesses to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
  
- **May 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
  
- **June 2**: Governor rolls out COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard with detailed metrics.
  
- **June 8**: Governor issues protection for high-risk commercial tenant.
  
- **June 8**: Governor announces extension of outdoor restrictions.
  
- **June 10**: Governor expands eviction moratorium and adds additional protections for renters.
  
- **June 14**: Governor issues protection for high-risk workers.
  
- **June 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan for phased reopening.
  
- **July 7**: Governor announces ban on large indoor gatherings.
  
- **July 28**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.
  
- **August 7**: Governor announces four-phase plan.
  
- **August 13**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
  
- **August 19**: Governor announces ban on large indoor gatherings.
  
- **September 10**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
  
- **September 15**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.

### Dept of Commerce

- **March 19**: State DOH issues Washington’s Phased Approach to address COVID-19 outbreak.
  
- **March 20**: State DOH and CDC update on number of confirmed cases relating to COVID-19.
  
- **April 10**: Washington State Department of Health issues Washington’s Phased Approach.
  
- **August 12**: Washington State Department of Health releases CORONA PHASE 120.

### Phased Approach

1. **Early March**: Governor announces relief packages to support the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **March 16**: Governor waives state income tax penalties.
3. **March 18**: Governor orders bars and restaurants to close.
4. **March 19**: Governor orders movie theaters, bowling alleys, and small businesses to close.
5. **March 20**: Governor issues a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses.
6. **March 23**: Governor waives state income tax penalties.
7. **March 31**: Gov invites the federal government to send National Guard to assist in protecting the state.
8. **April 1**: Governor announces plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
9. **April 8**: Governor signs bill package to support state efforts.
10. **April 13**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
11. **April 17**: Governor extends proclamation for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
12. **April 21**: Governor issues guidance to clarify limits on elective surgeries.
13. **April 23**: Governor announces easing of outdoor restrictions.
14. **April 27**: Governor extends proclamations for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
15. **May 4**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
16. **May 5**: Governor announces funding for crisis intervention.
17. **May 8**: Governor announces new out-of restrictions.
18. **May 12**: Governor announces that Washington State Department of Commerce awards 500 WISH (Workforce Investment Statewide) grants to Washington small businesses to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
19. **May 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
20. **June 2**: Governor rolls out COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard with detailed metrics.
21. **June 8**: Governor issues protection for high-risk commercial tenant.
22. **June 14**: Governor issues protection for high-risk workers.
23. **June 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan for phased reopening.
24. **July 7**: Governor announces ban on large indoor gatherings.
25. **July 28**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.
26. **August 7**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
27. **August 13**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.
28. **September 10**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
29. **September 15**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.

### Additional Information

- **March 20**: Governor announces plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
- **April 8**: Governor signs bill package to support state efforts.
- **June 2**: Governor rolls out COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard with detailed metrics.
- **August 7**: Governor announces four-phase plan.

### Misinformation about COVID-19

- **March 23**: State DOH and CDC update on number of confirmed cases relating to COVID-19.
- **March 31**: Gov invites the federal government to send National Guard to assist in protecting the state.
- **April 1**: Governor announces plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
- **July 28**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.
- **August 7**: Governor announces four-phase plan.

### Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant

- **March 1**: Washington Governor announces one-time rental moratorium to some low-income residents due to COVID-19.
- **March 21**: Governor announces assistance for homeowners unable to make mortgage payments.
- **March 24**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
- **March 29**: Governor signs bill package to support state efforts.
- **April 1**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
- **April 8**: Governor signs bill package to support state efforts.
- **April 13**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
- **April 17**: Governor extends proclamation for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
- **April 21**: Governor issues guidance to clarify limits on elective surgeries.
- **April 23**: Governor announces easing of outdoor restrictions.
- **April 27**: Governor extends proclamations for utility ratepayers and small businesses.
- **May 4**: Governor extends eviction moratorium.
- **May 5**: Governor announces funding for crisis intervention.
- **May 8**: Governor announces new out-of restrictions.
- **May 12**: Governor announces that Washington State Department of Commerce awards 500 WISH (Workforce Investment Statewide) grants to Washington small businesses to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- **May 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan to gradually reopen the state’s economy.
- **June 2**: Governor rolls out COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard with detailed metrics.
- **June 8**: Governor issues protection for high-risk commercial tenant.
- **June 14**: Governor issues protection for high-risk workers.
- **June 19**: Governor announces four-phase plan for phased reopening.
- **July 7**: Governor announces ban on large indoor gatherings.
- **July 28**: Governor issues executive order banning large outdoor gatherings.
- **August 7**: Governor announces four-phase plan.

### Washington State Department of Health

- **March 19**: State DOH issues Washington’s Phased Approach to address COVID-19 outbreak.
- **March 20**: State DOH and CDC update on number of confirmed cases relating to COVID-19.
- **April 10**: Washington State Department of Health issues Washington’s Phased Approach.
- **August 12**: Washington State Department of Health releases CORONA PHASE 120.
PHASE 2

When COVID disease burden is low and the four capabilities (health care system readiness; testing capacity and availability; case and contact investigations; and ability to protect high-risk populations) are met, the governor will issue an order for the state to move into Phase 3.

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

COVID-19 Risk assessment dashboard

The state’s COVID-19 dashboard provides a high-level overview of the main data points discussed among state leaders and the level of risk experts believe we might reenter a Phase.

Click image to open a larger version
COVID-19 Risk assessment dashboard

Federal Response

• coronavirus.gov

• April 27 – The Small Business Administration (SBA) began accepting applications on April 30 for additional funding through the Paycheck Protection Program. Renton's Business Response Team through Startup 425 can help with free, personal assistance, available in multiple languages.

• The SBA is also offering low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small businesses who have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus COVID-19.

• April 2 – CDC recommendation regarding the use of cloth face coverings, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

• March 27 – Congress passes CARES Act, a $2.2 trillion federal stimulus package to aid economic relief and economic stimulus.

• March 25 – President approves major disaster declaration for Renton.

Important Links

• Public Health – Seattle & King County

• King County Coronavirus page

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

• Riverside Coronavirus Operations (Inbound uninc.org)

• Washington State Coronavirus Response

• Governor's task force in multi-language resources

• King County Coronavirus Preparedness Standards

• State Resources for Business

• Washington State Provider Dashboard

Information for Businesses and Employees

For Businesses

• Stay Home – Stay Healthy: Guidance for essential business

• What do I do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19

• Cares Act guidance on coronavirus worksheet by COVID-19

For Employees

• Washington Security Bureau for workers affected by COVID-19

• ESSA Paid Family and Medical Leave Program

• ShareWork Program

• Temporary layoffs, standby and furloughs

• Layoff Assistance

• United Way of King County: Where to get help

Financial Resources

• Washington State Health Administration Disaster Loan Assistance

• Rapid Worker Relief and Health Fund (Seattle Area Economic Development Partnership)

• WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

• DOL Tax Credit for Rehiring

• Assistance to Washington Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 Business Resources

• Restore Your Economy: COVID-19 Resources for Economic Development