

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

**Washington State COVID-19 Site** [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://coronavirus.wa.gov)

Links to official information from a wide range of trusted sources, including government and community services.

**Department of Health** [doh.wa.gov](https://doh.wa.gov) • 1-800-525-0127

DOH call center for general questions about COVID-19. Phone lines: 6am-10pm. Language assistance: 800-525-0127.

**WA 211** [wa211.org](https://wa211.org) or dial 2-1-1

2-1-1 can help connect you to many community services.

**Washington Connection**

[www.washingtonconnection.org/home/home.go](https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/home.go) • 1-877-501-2233

Families and individuals can apply for services such as food, cash, childcare, long-term care & Medicare savings programs.

**OSPI** [k12.wa.us](https://k12.wa.us) • 360-725-6000

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website has a page on COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Educators, Students, and Families.

**Childcare** [dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19](https://dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19) • 1-800-446-1114

The Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families' website may have answers to your questions related to childcare.

**Employment** [esd.wa.gov](https://esd.wa.gov) • 1-800-318-6022

The Employment Security Department has information for workers and businesses about benefits, such as Paid Family and Medical Leave, Unemployment Insurance, and SharedWork, among others.

**Small Businesses** [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela) • 1-800-659-2955

The Small Business Administration will provide disaster assistance loans for small businesses impacted by the coronavirus.

**Taxpayer Assistance** [dor.wa.gov](https://dor.wa.gov) • 360-705-6705

The Department of Revenue has info. on relief for taxpayers, including extensions for filing and paying tax returns.

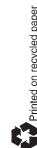
**Housing**

If you are struggling to maintain safe housing during this crisis, reach out to your local Housing Authority:

- **Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington** (Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum) & **Joint Pacific County Housing Authority** [hoswwa.org](https://hoswwa.org) • 360-423-0140
- **Housing Authority of Grays Harbor County** 360-532-0570
- **Kelso Housing Authority** (Cowlitz) [kelsohousing.org](https://kelsohousing.org) • 360-423-3490

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT TO THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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### Did you hear our state is FLATTENING THE CURVE?

It's beginning to look that way!

This means we're all doing our part to help stop the spread.

### It does not mean we're out of the woods.

Going back to our normal behavior now would undo all our progress, get more people sick or killed, and keep the state on lockdown for a lot longer. Nobody wants that.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT TO THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

SPRING 2020

Dear friends,

Unlike other years, this is not an end of session report because, unlike other years, we are dealing with a healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions. In this newsletter you'll see a section on bills that I sponsored and others that went through my committee. However, most of the content is about the coronavirus since that's our priority right now.

The legislature responded early, passing a bill with **\$200 million for COVID-19 mitigation**: increased hospital capacity and expanded testing, support for public health agencies, unemployment benefits, and assistance for small businesses.

I am writing this in mid-April but, by the time you read it, the landscape may have changed significantly. We're monitoring the situation and are prepared to hold a special session if more funding is needed to slow the spread of the disease.

You can do a lot to protect your communities by following the directions and guidance given by public health officials. We must continue to practice this new way of life until it is deemed safe to resume our regular lifestyles and interactions.



The COVID-19 pandemic is putting our state and our nation to the test.

**But we are resilient and will overcome this crisis together, as Washingtonians,** I have no doubt.

Stay healthy,

**Rep. Brian Blake**  
**Committees:**

- Rural Development Agriculture, & Natural Resources (*Chair*)
- Commerce & Gaming
- Consumer Protection & Business

## Why extreme measures are necessary

The near complete shutdown of our economy has been devastating. Unemployment claims shot through the roof and continue to rise, and people's lives have been turned upside down. Yet, as hard as this is on our economy, the extreme measures are absolutely necessary.

According to the CDC, if **we had not taken mitigation steps early, up to 214 million people in the U.S. could be infected over the next year; up to 21 million people could require hospitalization; and as many as 200,000 to 1.7 million people could die.** While this economic shutdown will be hard on all of us, the alternative would be much worse. Economies can be rebuilt. Lives cannot be brought back.

# COVID-19

## So, let's keep up the good work:

**BE CLEAN**—Wash your hands often and disinfect surfaces (doorknobs, tables, counters, handrails.)

**HANDS OFF**—Don't touch your face, nose, eyes and mouth.

**SIX FEET SAVES LIVES**—When you go for a walk or to the store keep your distance and completely avoid crowds.

**STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY**—This is the most important thing you can do right now. So pick up a hobby, read books, bake, play with your kids and engage with friends and loved ones over the phone or video chat.

**COUGH, FEVER, SHORTNESS OF BREATH?**—Call your doctor before going to a clinic or emergency room.

**FIGHT STIGMA**—COVID-19 doesn't care where you live, the color of your skin, or the language you speak. We're all in this together, and we're stronger as a community when we stand up against discrimination and actively prevent, interrupt, and respond to stigma.

## Federal Relief Package

Congress passed a package that will boost state and local programs. Here's the estimated breakdown of funding for Washington state:

**State Coronavirus Relief Fund**—\$2.953 billion for our state and local public health systems, personal protective equipment, human services, and more.

**Child Care Development Block Grant**—\$58.2 million to help childcare providers during this unprecedented crisis.

**Community Services Block Grant**—\$11.8 million for local community-based organizations providing social services and emergency assistance to those with the highest need.

**Low-income heating assistance program**—\$11.1 million to help those who need assistance paying their utility bills.

**Education Stabilization Fund**—\$56.6 million, along with \$216.9 million for elementary and secondary education to help schools purchase technology to support online learning.

**Help for families**—\$1,200 per person check for those making under \$75,000 a year and \$2,400 for a married couple who file jointly earning \$150,000 or less. Plus \$500 per child.

## Sponsored & Committee bills enacted into law

- **House Bill 1622** modernizes Washington's drought statutes to improve our state's responsiveness to drought emergencies and to prevent future water shortages.
- **House Bill 2109** allows the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Quinault Indian Nation to designate alternate members to the Chehalis board so they can attend meetings when the current appointees can't do so.
- **House Bill 2250** expands Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Pot Removal Program from May 1 through September 15. Safeguarding economic viability for our coastal communities by preserving access to our crab resource will improve crab fisheries management and address risks to whales.

## Bills enacted into law...(continued)

- **House Bill 2868** extends the Special Valuation Tax Credit of historic properties in cities listed as distressed areas by the Employment Security Department and with populations of less than 20,000. This bill will help us restore and preserve historic properties in Aberdeen as part of enhancing special arts and music districts.
- **House Bill 2528** recognizes the contributions of our forest products sector and supports small forest landowners by increasing carbon sequestration efforts that will benefit entire rural communities and help fight climate change.
- **Senate Bill 5947** establishes the sustainable farms and fields program. Supporting farming practices such as increasing water quality and storing carbon, is good for both, climate and farm businesses.
- **Senate Bill 6091** continues the work of the Food Policy Forum by supporting small farms, increasing availability of food grown in Washington, and reducing food insecurity to ensure our state has a secure, abundant supply of healthy food.



Three Rivers Christian School 4th graders visiting the Capitol  
Photo: LSS