

HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER NO. 22-002

January 11, 2022

RE: COVID-19 Update to Snohomish Health District Health Officer's Quarantine Directive, Isolation Order, and Directive for Wearing Masks

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, SNOHOMISH County Executive Somers proclaimed a state of emergency within Snohomish County due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, pursuant to order 20-056, the Local Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District declared a public health emergency within Snohomish County due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a state of pandemic due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has experienced ongoing transmission of COVID-19 and has remained subject to restrictions at varying levels imposed the Governor and Secretary of Health; and

WHEREAS, isolation of cases and quarantine of contacts are essential measures for the control of COVID-19 transmission, and affected individuals' cooperation with these measures is critical to the success of these efforts; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, pursuant to [Order 20-062](#), and on June 23, 2020, pursuant to Order [20-071](#), the Local Health Officer set forth parameters for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine and obligated individuals to adhere to those parameters; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2021, the Local Health Officer modified and superseded those orders with [Order No. 21-006](#) which has remained in effect to this date in order to help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the county by reducing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2021, the Local Health Officer issued a [Directive for Wearing of Masks in Public Indoor Spaces](#); and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2021, the Washington State Secretary of Health issued a substantially similar face covering [Order 20-03.6](#); and

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WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention issued [updated recommendations for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine](#); and

WHEREAS, on about January 6, 2022, the Washington State Department of Health [adopted those recommendation for the general public](#) and has promoted them for implementation by the public but not for congregate settings such as jails, corrections, shelters, and crowded workspaces where social distancing cannot be maintained consistently; and

WHEREAS, the scientific basis for the public health response to COVID-19 is constantly evolving, variants of SARS-CoV-2 with different transmission and virulence characteristics are likely to continue to emerge, medical countermeasures to transmission and disease (e.g., vaccination, treatments) have progressed and are likely to continue to do so, and all of these factors contribute to a continuous, complex and often rapidly changing state of disease control guidelines, recommendations, and requirements at the local, state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, local conditions can vary from county to county which may warrant a local health officer adopting more stringent restrictions as necessary to control this highly transmissible disease more effectively in his or her jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, harmonization of public health directives at the county, regional, and state level is generally more feasible to implement and effective in the context of an ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, state law RCW 70.05.070(1)-(3) requires and empowers the Local Health Officer to enforce the public health statutes of the state, rules of the State Board of Health, and rules of the Secretary of Health, and to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, state regulation WAC 246-100-036 requires the Local Health Officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures, including assessment, quarantine, and isolation as he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment, current standards of practice, and the best available medical and scientific information; and

WHEREAS, state regulation WAC 246-101-425 directs members of the general public to cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of cases, suspected cases, outbreaks, and suspected outbreaks of notifiable conditions or other communicable diseases and to cooperate with the implementation of infection control measures, including isolation and quarantine; and

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WHEREAS, a large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the regional healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public and otherwise threatens the integrity of critical infrastructure and societal function;

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the preceding recitals which are hereby incorporated herein as findings, it is hereby determined that:

- Health Officer's Order 21-006 is rescinded for the reason that it is replaced by this Order.
- The August 10, 2021, Health Officer Directive for Wearing of Public Masks in Public Indoor Spaces is defunct and hereby rescinded for the reason that it is replaced by this Order.
- Orders related to COVID-19 prevention and control may be reinstated by the Local Health Officer when locally tailored measures more restrictive than the Governor, Secretary of Health, State Board of Health, and or Washington State Department of Health are deemed necessary in the Local Health Officer's judgment.

FURTHER, it is reasonable and necessary in order to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Snohomish County, and accordingly, the Local Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District hereby orders as follows:

- Current and subsequent editions of COVID-19 [isolation and quarantine guidance](#) issued by the Washington State Department of Health shall be required of and adhered to by all people within Snohomish County; and
- The Secretary of Health's Face Covering [Order 20-03.6](#) as it now reads or is hereinafter amended shall be required of and adhered to by all people in Snohomish County; and
- All other COVID-19 requirements of the Governor, Secretary of Health, Washington State Board of Health, or Washington State Department of Health as they now read or are hereinafter amended shall be adhered to by all people in Snohomish County.

I strongly urge all people in Snohomish County to voluntarily comply with this Order without delay.

- Any person who fails or refuses to obey any lawful order issued by any local health officer may be referred to the prosecuting attorney for possible misdemeanor charges punishable as provided under RCW 70.05.120 and WAC 246-100-070.
- Individuals who disregard this order or who otherwise fail to comply also may be subject to involuntary detention pursuant to public health authority under RCW 70.05.070 (2)-(3) and WAC 246-100-036(3).

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This Order shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

This order supersedes Order 21-006, in all respects. If any conflict exists between this order and any other order of the Health Officer pertaining to COVID-19, this Order shall control.

Notwithstanding this Order, all individuals, enterprises, and facilities remain subject to all COVID-19 proclamations, declarations, directives, and orders promulgated and remaining in effect by the Snohomish County Executive, the State Secretary of Health, and the Governor. If any element of this Order is or becomes in conflict with such, the more restrictive directive shall prevail.

For more information, contact Snohomish Health District COVID-19 Information at (425) 339-5278

Signed and ordered this 11th day of January 2022, in Everett, Washington, by



Christopher Spitters, MD, MPH
Health Officer