

COVID-19 Information & Resources

Updated 4.19.22

I. Washington Information

Reopening & Virus Response:

- **Washington COVID-19 Virus Response:** Find resources for business and employers at Washington's COVID-19 website [here](#).
- **Latest L&I Employer guidance** [here](#).
- **Mask rule changes are coming March 21 for Washington state businesses & workers:**
 - As of March 21, 2022, masks are no longer be required to be worn in many settings. Local health jurisdictions and individual businesses may still choose to require masking. Employees can wear masks if they choose to. Businesses can't punish workers who wear a mask, take time off to get vaccinated, or seek treatment for COVID-19.
 - For information on current requirements see [L&I Requirements and Guidance for Preventing COVID-19 \(F414-614-000\)](#).
 - Governor Inslee's medium page on mask mandate and case counts [here](#).
- **Federal 100+ Employer Vaccine Mandate:** Late last year, at the direction of President Biden, OSHA) issued an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS that required employers of 100 or more workers to ensure their workers receive vaccinations for COVID-19 or be tested for the disease on a regular basis. The US Supreme Court struck down the ETS in January, but OSHA may proceed with a permanent rulemaking to adopt similar requirements. On Jan. 26, the agency reported that it would continue to press ahead with developing a permanent rule designed to accomplish the same goals as the ETS.
 - OSHA ETS page [here](#).
- **State Employee/Contractor Vaccine Mandate:** The vaccine mandate proclamation for state employees, on-site contractors, and service providers went into effect on October 18, 2021.
 - Section 6(f) of the proclamation reads: "On-site volunteer" and "on-site contractor" does not include: A volunteer or contractor who is reasonably likely or contractually obligated to engage in or in fact engages in work during which they are physically present at a site for only a short period of time and any moments of close physical proximity to others on site are fleeting
 - WRRR received additional clarification from the Governor's office that indicates most solid waste collection workers will not be impacted by the mandate.
 - Updated Proclamation [here](#). More information [here](#). Detailed FAQ [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Item 30 / UTC Response:** On March 17, 2020 the WUTC held a special open meeting by teleconference. At the meeting, new tariff language in Item 30 of many Solid Waste Collection Company tariffs was added to the consent agenda. WRRR worked with Commission staff to develop language that provides for alterations of service in response to the public health emergencies. At the meeting, the Commissioner's expressed support for company action taken in response to the public health emergency, but encouraged all companies to include this language in their tariffs.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Info:** Everyone 16 and older became eligible for vaccines beginning April 15. Availability and timelines for vaccines will vary on a local basis, but generally vaccine availability is high. The latest on vaccines is available on the [DOH webpage](#).
- **Washington Department of Health Guidance on COVID-19** [here](#).

Washington Employer Information:

- **COVID-19 Plan for Businesses:** COVID-19 remains a serious workplace hazard, and businesses must continue to reduce risk of transmission for their workers. Risks vary from workplace to workplace. Use the [COVID-19 Plan template](#) to create a plan for your business.
- **L&I COVID-19 Page** [here](#).
- **Business Tax Relief in Response to New COVID-19 Guidance:** Information [here](#).
- **COVID-19 business resources for Washington State:** The Department of Revenue offers relief to impacted businesses. More info [here](#).
- **Governor’s Office:** Resources for employers and workers [here](#).
- **Employment Security Department:** Information for workers and businesses regarding federal stimulus, expanded unemployment, and emergency rulemakings [here](#).

II. Federal Information

General Resources:

- **CDC Guidance for fully vaccinated people:** the CDC has updated guidance available [here](#).
- **NWRA COVID-19 Guidance & Resources** [here](#).
- **SWANA COVID-19 Guidance & Resources** [here](#).

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration & CDL Requirements:

- FMCSA Emergency Declarations and COVID-19 information [here](#) and [here](#).
- **Commercial driver licenses & commercial learner permits extension:**
 - April 31, 2022 extension [here](#).
- **Limited Hours of service proclamation:**
 - May 31, 2022 extension [here](#).
- **US DOT COVID-19 Guidance:** latest guidance available [here](#).
- Governor Inslee suspended some requirements related to commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner permits (CLPs) that aligned with changes authorized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).
- FAQ that addresses the solid waste industry [here](#).
- FMCSA COVID-19 Drug & Alcohol Testing Guidance [here](#).
- Enforcement Notice on Expiring CDLs [here](#).

Center for Disease Control:

- The CDC issued a guidance “What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19” document following requests from industry associations.

- View the document [here](#).
- General CDC guidance [here](#).

COVID-19 Small Business Relief:

- Guidance for Small Businesses and Employers impacted by COVID-19 is available also here:
 - [Small Business Administration Corona Virus landing page.](#)
 - [US Treasury Department Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Seattle Chamber of Commerce FAQ](#)
 - [Guidance on loan assistance from Prism Group](#)
 - [National Federation of Independent Business guidance on Paycheck Protections Program Forgivable Loan](#)
 - [Arnold & Porter Q&A on Small Business Loan Assistance](#)
 - [Tutorial on applying for SBA disaster assistance](#)

Other Federal Resources:

- **Center for Disease Control Guidance:** Worker COVID-19 Exposure guidance [here](#).
- **Homeland Security CISA Guidance:** Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure workers available [here](#).
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** The EPA has release a memo on COVID-19 implications for EPA enforcement and compliance [here](#).
- **Department of Labor Family & Medical Leave:** Guidance on paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the families first coronavirus response act [here](#).
- **Center for Disease Control:** Resources for Businesses and Employers [here](#).

III. Other Resources:

- **MSRC COVID-19 Resources** page [here](#).
- **WCRRRC Federal Status Report:** View the April 2020 federal status report from Eric Bock for more information and context on federal COVID-19 action [here](#).
- **Association of Washington Cities:** Resource page includes resources for government, service providers, and business [here](#).

NWRA

- The National Waste and Recycling Association prepared a [COVID19 Guide for Waste Operations](#). The Guide outlines much of the information previously sent about OSHA/CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) noting that waste handling is not a COVID19 disease pathway. Exercising caution, using PPE, practicing good hygiene and social distancing are the best practices to stay safe on the job. ORRA and the national associations continue to monitor health, safety and worker protection concerns.
- NWRA has also hosted a series of webinar's discussing the COVID-19 Impact on the solid waste and recycling industry. View the archived webinars and documents below:

- [Managing COVID-19 Waste](#)
- [COVID-19 Focus on Work Practices](#)
- [NWRA COVID-19 ACTIONS AND WINS](#)
- [NWRA HWI COVID-19 FAQ](#)
- [Small Business Loan Guide](#)
- NWRA also wrote letters to the [National Governors Association](#), the [National League of Cities](#) and the [National Association of Counties](#) urging regulatory flexibility from state and local governments.

Media Resources

- Waste 360 All COVID 19 Articles [here](#).
- Wastedive COVID-19 Tracker [here](#).
- SWANA COVID-19 Documents [here](#).

Governor Proclamations & WUTC Docs

- **List of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers referenced** in Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation [here](#).
- **COVID-19: Truck Driver Hours** Proclamation 3.18.20 [here](#).
- **High Risk Workers: 6.12.20** [here](#).
 - Extension [20-46.1](#).
- **Other proclamations** from the Governor related to the outbreak [here](#).
- **UTC Adoption of Federal Guidelines Notice:** A notice from the UTC detailing the Commission’s implementation of federal policy and emergency actions for all transportation companies [here](#).
- **Utility shut-off moratorium:** The utility shutoff and late fee prohibitions in Proclamation 20-23.15 & [21-09](#) ended on September 30, 2021.

WRRRA COVID-19 Correspondence

- To date WRRRA has sent two letters to Governor Inslee that discuss the current public health situation and request necessary regulatory relief to maintain maximum continuity of service throughout. WRRRA has also worked with UTC Staff to develop new language for Item 30 in the Solid Waste Collection Company Tariff.
- **COVID-19 Item 30 / UTC Response:** On March 17, 2020 the WUTC held a special open meeting by teleconference. At the meeting, new tariff language in Item 30 of many Solid Waste Collection Company tariffs was added to the consent agenda. WRRRA worked with Commission staff to develop language that provides for alterations of service in response to the public health emergencies. At the meeting, the Commissioner’s expressed support for company action taken in response to the public health emergency, but encouraged all companies to include this language in their tariffs.
 - [WRRRA Regulatory Relief Letter to Governor Inslee 3.19.20](#)
 - [WRRRA Regulatory Relief Letter to Governor Inslee 3.20.20](#)
 - [WRRRA Suggested Language Item 30 3.6.20](#)