

ORDER NO. 2020-7

**SAN JUAN COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER
REGARDING COVID-19; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSIENT
ACCOMMODATIONS, CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPING FACILITIES, PORTS, AND
MARINAS; AMENDING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINE PASSENGER
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS; REPEALING AND AMENDING
PORTIONS OF ORDERS 2020-3 AND 2020-5**

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread throughout Washington State, including San Juan County, significantly threatening the life and health of persons in San Juan County;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread from people without symptoms, including persons who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, to others;

WHEREAS, in the absence of interventions to limit the spread of the disease, for every case of COVID-19 in the community we can expect 2.5 more cases in the community, leading to a dramatic increase in the number of cases over a short period of time;

WHEREAS, there are currently no known medications or vaccinations that are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as social distancing and the wearing of cloth face coverings, are presently the only effective measures to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proclamations 20-05 et seq. and accompanying guidance (collectively referred to in this order as "Statewide Orders") provide for a statewide framework for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Governor Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home -Stay Healthy," adopted on March 23, 2020, placed statewide limitations on gatherings, business and leisure activity, and travel;

WHEREAS, the Governor established a phased approach known as "Safe Start Washington" beginning on May 5, 2020, which provides for gradual increases over time in allowable business and leisure activity, travel, and gatherings with an emphasis on

simultaneously minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19, reducing the risk of COVID-19 to Washington's most vulnerable populations, and preserving capacity in the health care system;

WHEREAS, the "Stay Home –Stay Healthy" approach was replaced effective June 1, 2020 with the "Safe Start –Stay Healthy" plan adopted in Governor Proclamation 20-25.4 and which may be amended in the future from time to time (the plan as it now exists or may later be amended is referred to as the "Safe Start Plan");

WHEREAS, San Juan County moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan on May 23, 2020, and will be eligible to submit an application to move to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan as soon as June 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, San Juan County is a popular travel and leisure destination which experiences a large influx of visitors throughout the year, particularly in and around the summer months;

WHEREAS, San Juan County has a large number of transient accommodations and overnight moorage facilities which are often used for overnight stays associated with non-essential travel;

WHEREAS, it is important to maintain existing measures intended to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 from non-essential travel during any time that San Juan County is in or returns to Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan;

WHEREAS, San Juan County Health Officer Order 2020-3 as amended by Order 2020-5 adopted local restrictions regarding transient lodging, campgrounds and camping, and overnight moorage which are to phase out when the County moves to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan, at which time further opening of recreational facilities and the resumption of non-essential travel for all but high-risk individuals will be allowed;

WHEREAS, health measures now in place and capacity improvements made within San Juan County and around the region have improved the ability of the County and its partners to respond to new cases of COVID-19 in the County, including any cases that may occur as a result of increased travel to and within San Juan County that is allowable under the Safe Start Plan;

WHEREAS, based on the current level of preparedness in San Juan County and general compliance with existing public health measures enacted to hinder the transmission of COVID-19, it is appropriate to provide for the gradual opening of transient lodging, campgrounds and camping, and overnight moorage during Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan so long as appropriate health measures are in place;

WHEREAS, a gradual opening of transient lodging, campgrounds and camping, and overnight moorage allows for evaluation of whether such opening with related safety measures is effective or whether alterations or scaling back of the reopening is necessary to provide for the public health;

WHEREAS, existing contact tracing systems will be used to monitor whether future cases of COVID-19 in San Juan County are the result of transmission associated with an increase in allowable transient stays in the County and will be used to determine whether modifications to this order should be made;

WHEREAS, at this time it appears that appropriate health measures are in place to allow for a full reopening of transient lodging, campgrounds and camping, and overnight moorage during Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan so long as appropriate safety guidelines are followed, and thus it is appropriate to plan for full reopening in Phase 3, subject to reevaluation and possible scaling back or revision based on the County's experience during Phase 2 and the status of public health;

WHEREAS, RCW 70.05.070 requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures 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, in order to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in San Juan County and protect our most vulnerable populations, in my professional judgment, based on the current standards of practice and the best available medical and scientific information, the following measures are necessary:

- A. The measures enacted in San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 and as amended by Order No. 2020-5 regarding limitations on transient accommodations and campground and camping facilities and limitations on port and marina facilities should be modified to allow additional transient stays during Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan so long as additional health measures are taken by providers.
- B. Notice requirements for vessels that provide marine passenger transportation enacted in San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 and as amended by Order No. 2020-5 should be eliminated during Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Frank James, Local Health Officer for San Juan County, under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036, and on the basis of the foregoing recitals, make the following ORDER:

1. San Juan County Health Officer Order Nos. 2020-3 Section 3 and 2020-5 Section 2, Transient Accommodations, are each repealed.
2. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 Section 4, Overnight Moorage, is repealed.
3. Transient Accommodations and Overnight Moorage. Owners and operators of transient accommodations or campground and camping facilities as defined in San Juan County Code Chapter 18.20 or port and/or marina facilities shall comply with the following:

- A. During any time that San Juan County is subject to Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan, transient accommodations, campground and camping facilities, or new overnight moorage in San Juan County shall be provided only to persons for whom such accommodations, facilities, or moorage is required (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, (2) for employment in essential business services, or (3) for any other purposes authorized by Statewide Orders, such as employment in certain construction or outdoor recreation businesses. During any time San Juan County is subject to Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan, transient accommodations, campground and camping facilities, or new overnight moorage in San Juan County shall not be provided for purposes of recreation, leisure, or sightseeing.
- B. During any time that San Juan County is subject to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan, transient accommodations, campground and camping facilities, and port and/or marina facilities in San Juan County shall be operated at no more than 50% of maximum occupancy. For locations with multiple units or multiple transient mooring slips available this means that no more than 50% of the units and no more than 50% of the transient mooring slips may be occupied; for locations with a single unit this means that the unit may be occupied by no more than 50% of the otherwise allowable number of persons. This Section 3.B does not apply to campground and camping facilities on non-ferry served islands, defined as islands other than Lopez Island, Orcas Island, San Juan Island, and Shaw Island.
- C. During any time that San Juan County is subject to Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan, transient accommodations and campground and camping facilities located in San Juan County shall be operated in a manner that is consistent with the Safety Guidelines for Accommodations attached as Exhibit A.
- D. Nothing in this order requires the removal of persons who are already staying in transient accommodations, campground and camping facilities, or overnight moorage at the time this order is made or at the time the County moves between phases under the Safe Start Plan.

4. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 Section 5 is repealed.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the County Health Officer following a determination that limitations on transient accommodations, campground and camping facilities, and overnight moorage are no longer necessary.

All other provisions of Health Officer Order Nos. 2020-3 and 2020-5 remain in full force and effect.

DATED this 3 day of JUNE, 2020 at 10:45 am/pm.



FRANK JAMES, M.D.
SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER