

ORDER NO. 2020-9

**SAN JUAN COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER
REGARDING COVID-19; AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSIENT
ACCOMMODATIONS, CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPING FACILITIES, PORTS, AND
MARINAS; AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT; AND AMENDING
ORDERS 2020-7 AND 2020-8**

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 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" adopted in Governor Proclamation 20-25.4 and which was most recently amended in Governor Proclamation 20-25.7 and may be further 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 currently remains in Phase 2;

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 2020-7 was adopted on June 3, 2020, establishing local safety guidelines for accommodations that apply during Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the Safe Start Plan;

WHEREAS, San Juan County Health Officer Order 2020-7 provides for limited transient lodging during Phase 1, transient lodging at 50% of capacity in Phase 2, and the elimination of capacity limitations when the County moves to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan, at which time further opening of businesses and the resumption of non-essential travel for all but high-risk individuals will be allowed;

WHEREAS, over the past three months, adopted safety guidelines have been effectively implemented by local businesses the spread of COVID-19 has been prevented at local transient lodging establishments;

WHEREAS, based on the current level of preparedness in San Juan County and compliance with existing public health measures enacted to hinder the transmission of COVID-19, it is appropriate to eliminate the Phase 2 occupancy limitations on transient lodging, campgrounds and camping, and overnight moorage;

WHEREAS, based on present knowledge regarding the risk of spread of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of safety measures, it is appropriate to modify the safety guidelines for

accommodations adopted in Order 2020-7 to allow rooms to be left vacant for fewer than 24 hours prior to cleaning so long as alternative safety measures are in place;

WHEREAS, San Juan County Health Officer Order 2020-3, as amended by Orders 2020-5 and 2020-8, adopted local restrictions regarding playgrounds and playground equipment in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 through surface contact and respiratory transmission at these public spaces until such time as the County moves to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Plan;

WHEREAS, community compliance with health measures such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, hand sanitizer use, and the wearing of cloth face coverings have led to a low overall rate of COVID-19 in San Juan County with no sustained community transmission;

WHEREAS, based on the successful health measures already in place and their acceptance in the community it is appropriate to eliminate restrictions on playgrounds and playground equipment during those times that San Juan County is not in Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan;

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 modifications in this order are necessary;

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 No. 2020-7 Section 3.B is repealed.
2. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-7 Exhibit A, Safety Guidelines for Accommodations, is amended as follows: Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols which require rooms to be left vacant for at least 24 hours prior to cleaning are modified to allow the following as an alternative to 24-hour vacancy:

Each guest room shall remain vacant for at least six hours between guests. Windows in each guest room shall remain open for at least six hours during each period of vacancy. Each guest room shall be left vacant for at least two hours prior to cleaning.

3. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-8 Section 1, Playgrounds, is amended to read as follows:

During any time that San Juan County is subject to Phase 1 ~~or Phase 2~~ of the Safe Start Plan, all playgrounds and playground equipment located in San Juan County that is accessible to the public is closed. No person shall use, or permit a minor child for whom they are the parent or guardian to use, any publicly accessible playground or playground equipment in San Juan County while San Juan County is subject to Phase 1 ~~or Phase 2~~ of the Safe Start Plan.

4. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 Section 2, Playgrounds Notice, is amended to read as follows:

During any time that San Juan County is subject to Phase 1 ~~or Phase 2~~ of the Safe Start Plan, owners and operators of any (1) public playground or public playground equipment or (2) playground or playground equipment open to the public shall maintain posted notice indicating that the playgrounds and playground equipment are closed. Those portions of public parks or privately owned areas open to the public that are outside of playgrounds or play equipment are not closed by this order; however, owners of parks or similar outdoor facilities open to the public shall operate the facilities in a manner consistent with the Safe Start Plan and other applicable statewide laws, regulations, and orders. ~~maintain posted notice that group activities are not allowed and that users must engage in social distancing by maintaining separation of at least six feet from other persons who are not members of their household or residential living unit.~~

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, overnight moorage, and playgrounds and playground equipment are no longer necessary.

All other provisions of Health Officer Order Nos. 2020-7 and 2020-8 remain in full force and effect.

DATED this 10 day of September, 2020 at 2:30 pm.



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