

# King County COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Updated 3/11/20 3:45pm

\*In a state of emergency King County has the authority to make executive decisions that sometime will override our standard operating guidelines when the decisions need to happen timely to expedite the safety and security of King County residents.

## **What we Know in King County?**

1. 234 confirmed cases
2. 26 confirmed deaths

## **King County Isolation & Quarantine Sites**

- **White Center** 206 SW 112<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA. 98146
- **Kent Econolodge:** 1233 Central Ave N, Kent, WA 98032-3041
- **Seattle Interbay:** 531 Elliott Avenue West, Seattle. Capacity of up to 72 people.
- **North Seattle:** 1132 N. 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle. Planned for 6 modular units. The City of Seattle is engaging residents in this area to identify immediate and long-term community needs.

\* Sites on the East Side and in North King County are being actively pursued, and we anticipate announcing several additional sites as the virus spreads.

## **State Isolation & Quarantine Sites (addresses to come)**

- North Bend
- Shoreline

## **Criteria as we know it:** (more to come)

- Proper ventilation, each room has separate HVAC
- Multi-unit dwelling
- Space to accommodate modular housing units
- Hook-up to necessary utilities

## **What is the intent of the quarantine sites?**

1. Stopping the spread of COVID -19
2. Provide housing for those
  - a. First responders (EMTs, Firefighters, etc.) working with affected
  - b. Unstably housed people
  - c. People traveling into King County from out of state/country
  - d. People affected that live with vulnerable family members that can't be isolated
  - e. College students living in dorm housing

## **Resources:**

1. The King County Council allocated \$1 million dollars for outreach
  - a. Language access
  - b. Outreach and education
  - c. Grants to impacted communities and community-based organizations
2. Seattle Foundation Partnership \$6.2 million
  - a. The King County Pandemic Community Advisory Board will advise on how the funds should be allocated.

- b. Priority populations are gig workers, folks without access to sick days and/or health insurance, communities with language access needs, communities of color, among others

## **FAQ**

### **Q. How will isolation or quarantine sites be selected?**

A. Sites are selected based on unique criteria issued by the Public Health department. Our office is still working with Public Health to understand the full breadth of criteria. For examples, see above.

### **Q: Will there be medical personnel on site?**

A: At this time, Public Health does not have the capacity to place medical staff on-site. That may change as more capacity gets built with the arrival of expanded funding from the Federal and State government, and the county is exploring how to get medical staff on-site at this time. Each occupant will be monitored at least twice daily by public health staff regarding how their symptoms are presenting will also assess if they need acute medical care.

### **Q: What is the plan to transport people at the isolation site if they require hospitalization or to be moved from the site? Who will be used to transport (EMS, Fire Dept., Trimet)?**

A: King County is working to identify local vendors and agencies to coordinate transportation. At this time, we do not plan on asking EMS and Fire Departments to take on this burden.

### **Q: Was there an equity analysis implemented when making the decision to choose White Center as a site?**

A: When a public health agency deals with a pandemic outbreak, it must act urgently in order to slow the spread of illness and prevent people from getting sick in the first place. Part of acting urgently in this case means utilizing “move-in ready” resources available in real time. That means using land the county already owns or properties that are equipped to meet the unique needs of pandemic isolation. Though there was not time to engage the community’s feedback or implement an equity analysis before securing these locations, we are committed to working closely within each community in coming weeks to ensure safety for the surrounding areas before, as, after our first patients move in.

### **Q: Is there a way to keep people in the community updated to address concerns and fears?**

A: Public Health of Seattle King County has committed to hosting a community partner conference call on Mondays at 4:00pm. I believe they had over 200 participants on last Monday’s call. However, based on recent calls with White Center Stakeholders, we would like to set up a call specifically for communications regarding isolation and quarantine facilities for communities and businesses to get briefed on the latest information, and ask questions specifically related to the facilities. We are working on determining when this call could take place. We are also planning to send out a weekly email brief and are working to figure out timing and logistics there as well, given how stretched our staff in Public Health are. Exact timing for the weekly call and weekly email brief are to be determined. Additionally, members

of the Executive Office team are available to field questions and work with Public Health and Facilities Management staff to get answers.

**Q: Will the decision to isolate and quarantine individuals at the site be based on exposure or active illness?**

A: Both

**Q: What measures will be taken to minimize exposure to nearby apartments to COVID-19 if it is spread through the air? How will air ventilation system be prevented from venting and dispersing droplets?**

A: Each unit has its own self-contained HVAC system so that no droplets can enter other rooms in the facility or outside the facility whatsoever.

**Q: How long will people placed in isolation and quarantine be at the site?**

A: Individuals will be housed at the site until they are well. If anyone housed at the site needs medical attention, they will be transported to a hospital that can attend to acute health needs.

**Q: Will they be tested while they are there and how often?**

A: The County is working to determine the frequency of testing as more expanded testing comes online.

**Q: How long does it typically take to recover?**

A: Because COVID-19 is a new virus, that information is not known at this time.

**Q: Can there be 24hour medical staff at the site?**

A: At this time, Public Health does not have the capacity to place medical staff on-site. That could change as more capacity gets built with the arrival of expanded funding from the Federal and State government. Each occupant will be monitored at least twice daily by public health staff regarding how their symptoms are presenting will also assess if they need acute medical care.

**Q: Can there be greater security at the site?**

A: We are committed to assessing the security needs of each site on an ongoing basis.

**Q: Can funding be used to set up a community clinic in White Center that can offer testing?**

A: Right now, public health staff are working around the clock and are at capacity, but we are assessing this feedback.

**Q: Why was White Center chosen if there are no nearby medical facilities or hospitals?**

A: As mentioned, the Top Hat site was chosen because it the unique criteria for pandemic isolation.

**Q: How will food delivery be handled to avoid contact with isolated individuals?**

A: Food delivery will be strictly drop-and-go, meaning no person-to-person contact whatsoever. County staff is working with many food delivery organizations to train them on how to execute this method.

**Q: Can there be a hotline for community to call and ask questions?**

A: There is a Washington State Novel Coronavirus Call Center that residents can call with questions about King County and Washington State's response to the outbreak. The number for this call center is 800-525-0127. Additionally, if you are in King County and believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or if you're a healthcare provider with questions about COVID-19, contact our novel coronavirus call center: 206-477-3977.

**Q: Can there be translation services of information relating to site in Spanish, Somali, and other languages spoken by the community.**

A: In addition to the \$50,000.00 request for language access services funds in the Executive's emergency appropriation ordinance, Public Health has a number of in-language resources available on their [COVID-19 homepage](#).