

(From Kathy Kershner) Hi Erika,

As requested by the administration, I'm submitting my questions to you. Please know that I don't expect you to be the person who has all the answers, I'm just trying to follow the administration's process for councilmembers to ask questions. I've also cc'd Councilmembers Buchanan and Byrd as the council's representatives to the policy group and Cathy Halka as the council's administrative staff who at one point, was compiling these questions.

Thanks Erika.

1. Are we planning for more isolation/quarantine facilities in addition to Motel 6 (58 rooms)? If so, where? How many? Capacity? Population served? Cost estimate? **The UC Planning Section is working on a variety of surge options, including additional isolation and quarantine facilities of different sizes and costs. The UC has not authorized public release of these sites, so I can't share any details, but the cost options and types of facilities I offered at last week's Council meeting are being considered.**
2. It seems the curve in Washington is bending down and we are experiencing a reduction in cases. Is this true? How is the data looking for Whatcom County? If the data is looking like we could be experiencing a reduction in cases, what changes to the planning process are being considered, if any? **We will have a statement and more data/information on this in the next couple of days.**
3. How many nursing homes/supported living facilities have had positive cases? How many people in these facilities have a positive case? **There have been 6 support living facilities with at least one positive case. Among the 6 facilities there have been 72 cases.**
4. How many congregate care facilities have requested support from the Unified Command? Have all of the facilities in Whatcom County been given the information to request assistance? If not, why not? What types of assistance are these facilities requesting? How many have requested assistance with PPE? Staffing? Transportation? Food Delivery? Medical Support? Other support for residents? **Through the work that the communicable disease team is doing, all SNF, ALF, AFH, home health and other types of congregate living facilities have received messaging from us and are contacted regularly to assess their needs and supplies.**
5. How many requests from congregate care facilities have been fulfilled from the same categories listed above?
6. My access to IAP-V6 was recently revoked. Why? I would appreciate my access restored. Thank you. **I learned from UC that only people who are on the UC org chart will have access.**
7. How many homeless people have tested positive for COVID-19? **I can't give you a number because we do not ask individuals, nor do healthcare providers, to disclose their housing status.**

We do, however, ask people in our contact investigations whether or not they're able to safely and effectively self-isolate or self-quarantine.

8. Some municipalities are interpreting the stay at home order to allow for construction projects in process to continue progress. Has the Administration considered providing guidance county-wide? Following a policy group meeting two weeks ago, PDS supplied cities with the county's guidance. There are exceptions to halting construction, including 'spoilage' of materials or the structure. Cities have chosen to interpret this and their enforcement differently and/or more liberally.

9. How much county revenue is anticipated to be lost as a result of the COVID-19 crisis? When I asked Brad Bennett about both #9 and #10, he indicated that finance would provide information next week and they are still working on estimates.

10. Given the loss in county revenue due to the shutdown of business and border crossings, what are the administration's recommendations to reduce the county budget to account for an approximate 10-15% reduction in revenue for 2020.

11. What sources of data is the Health Director using to make decisions? I'm not clear on the intent of this question. I am an epidemiologist and public health professional, and take my role in providing sound and science-based decisions seriously.

12. Our population is getting restless, do we have plans for enforcing stay at home order? From Sheriff Elfo: We continue to address violations with education and persuasion seeking voluntary compliance - I am not aware of any refusals to follow the request of deputies - since there are not a lot of good options for arrest, we will reserve that for only the most egregious instances or for those who flatly refuse to follow the direction of law enforcement (which to my knowledge has not occurred) - I believe all law enforcement agencies in the county and most in the state are following similar protocols.

13. The council approved a \$3 million dollar loan from the EDI fund to the emergency fund yesterday. What are the plans for this emergency funding? How specifically will it be spent? I believe the Executive answered this already.

14. The Executive requested an additional \$3 million in funding to the emergency fund which will come to the council in two weeks. Will this money be needed? If so, on what will this money be spent? I believe the Executive answered this already.

15. What are the plans for reducing restrictions? Is there a planning group working on how restrictions will be lifted? It seems restrictions would be lifted gradually, but maybe not, what is the current thinking on this? Is there any reason to believe stay at home order continues past May 4th? The Planning section and Intelligence unit are working on this, yes. This work is in concert with national, state and other local jurisdictions. The way I think about the easing of restrictions is that it's a dial not a switch. We will not simply flip the switch and ease all restrictions at one time. It will be a gradual, incremental easing, with periods following to examine whether there are any new clusters or surges. We don't know what the Governor will

decide to do about the stay home stay healthy order past May 4 and have not received any information to indicate he has made a decision.

Thank you to all who may be tasked to help answer these questions. I understand there may not be an answer to every question, that we may not know the answer, and/or staff have not had the time to address these questions. I am doing my best to understand our current situation, not get in the way of the day-to-day operations, and be prepared to move quickly if/when items come to the council that must be acted on in a timely manner. I appreciate all the work that is being done by the many, many people who have been working non-stop on the response to this crisis.

Thank you,

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