

Why are there entry restrictions for Guemes Island Community Center hall?

Rules were established by GICCA that comply with requirements of **Skagit County** and the recommendations from **Washington State Department of Health** and the **Center for Disease Control (CDC)**. These rules are reviewed regularly as Covid-19 updates are announced by Skagit County. A recent press release of October 25, 2021 reinforces that the rules should remain unchanged at this time. <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Home/press/102521.htm>

The health of the Guemes Island community continues to be a top priority. We appreciate that there are varied views on this important topic, and we remain attentive to changes for the county.

The statements below are taken directly from **Washington State Department of Health**:

1. Vaccination status of customers may be verified using an honor system, by engaging with customers to ask about vaccination status, by requiring proof of vaccination status, or by maintaining practices appropriate for unvaccinated persons. Businesses are encouraged to require documentation of COVID-19 vaccination of customers through an official record, as opposed to personal attestation or an honor system. Verification of vaccination status is not a violation of HIPAA.
2. Masks and physical distancing continue to play an important role in protecting the public from COVID-19 along with other mitigation measures like vaccination, improved ventilation, hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection
3. Per Proclamation 20-25.14 – Washington Ready and COVID-19 Facial Covering Guidance for Employers and Businesses, businesses are required to post signage in a prominent location visible to patrons at each entry informing customers of face covering requirements. Businesses, organizations, and establishments can choose to implement more protective measures, like requiring masks regardless of vaccination status, but they cannot be less protective than the requirements
4. Continuing to maintain physical distancing, keeping barriers, and other work practices that prevent large groups of people together for extended time can help to reduce the risk of outbreaks. This is particularly true for unvaccinated people. Where these changes in the workplace are easily maintained, there is a benefit to doing so.
5. High touch surfaces should be cleaned regularly and then disinfected at least once a day. Ensure restrooms are cleaned and disinfected regularly
6. Good ventilation and indoor air quality are important in reducing airborne exposure to respiratory pathogens, chemicals, and odors. Ensure that mechanical ventilation systems operate properly and are adjusted to bring in as much outside air as possible. Have the ventilation system professionally evaluated and increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate. Facilities should provide 4-6 air changes per hour
7. The business should maintain a list of confirmed and suspected cases among employees and customers, and a list of all exposed people who may be close contacts. See What to do if someone is a close contact of someone with COVID-19 for information on identifying close contacts. Be prepared to share this list with public health.
8. Stay up-to-date on the current COVID-19 situation in Washington, Governor Inslee’s proclamations, symptoms, how it spreads, and how and when people should get tested.

Source: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/420-350-NonHealthCareBusiness.pdf>

We do allow entry for those without a Covid-19 vaccination if they show proof of recent negative Covid test. Tests are available without cost at many locations in the area including the Mount Vernon fairgrounds which offers drive through testing without any appointment. DOH has a “finder” feature to locate a testing site.