



Dear Boating Community –

*We love our visitors but now is not the time to visit the San Juan Islands.*

The health and safety of our island communities is our highest priority. In light of concerns about the COVID-19 virus, the Port of Friday Harbor is following the County, State, and Federal guidelines and strongly urging all visitors postpone all non-essential travel to the San Juan's to limit the potential spread of the virus.

This advisory includes people coming to properties whose primary home is somewhere other than the San Juan Islands. This advisory includes those who keep boats and aircraft here in the Islands. It also includes boaters who wish to anchor out or pick up a mooring buoy – as we know they will have to make port calls sooner or later! Coming to the islands may provide some social distancing peace of mind for yourself, but you will be selfishly jeopardizing a community with limited essential supplies and limited response resources. The Port currently has over 50 live-aboards and many are extremely vulnerable to this virus.

There will be no overnight transient moorage at marinas allowed in the islands **until further notice**. Visiting boaters at anchor or on mooring buoys are not following the Governor's orders to avoid unnecessary travel and are requested to stay aboard.

Please help us manage the potential spread of the virus and prevent overloading our limited health care and emergency care infrastructure by staying at your **primary** residence or Home Port.

Our request is based on the San Juan County Health Officer's directive to suspend all non-essential travel to and from the Islands and close all lodgings to vacationers through May 4th. The timing of this directive will be reassessed and adjusted, if needed, based on the trajectory of the virus in the Islands and nationwide.

Currently, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has extended a statewide order for everyone except essential workers to stay home until May 4th. As a result, all businesses except essential businesses in the San Juan Islands are closed.

All Washington State Parks are closed until May 4th and State Parks campgrounds will remain closed until May 4th as well.

Also, if ferry travel is essential, please stay in your car during the passage. Walk-ons should practice social distancing. If a trip to the Islands is vital, San Juan County officials ask individuals to self-impose a 14-day quarantine to ensure COVID-19 containment. These, among other community mitigation efforts, are considered the quickest and most effective means of containing COVID-19 transmissions.

The Visitors Bureau will encourage travel to the San Juan Islands in support of our small businesses when it is safe to do so once again. **In the meantime, you can support businesses by buying gift cards or certificates for future travel or purchase of island-made items, visit our ["San Juans Islands Strong"](#) webpage.**

We will continue to monitor the situation as we work together with town and county officials to protect the people and places we love.

We wish everyone health and wellness, and REALLY look forward to having you back!!!