

COVID Situation Update 3-16-2022

During the past two years of COVID-19 we have experienced five waves, including three in the past year that were driven by new variants. In January of 2020 when the first cases of this disease were being reported, we had very few tools to protect us and those tools were outdated and in limited supply.

We have learned so much about this disease, about our response partners, about prevention and treatment and about our own resilience as we came together to care for each other in the best ways possible.

Masks have been a critical tool to keep us protected. We continue to monitor the situation here at Nisqually and will determine when it is appropriate for us to relax and or remove the mask mandates. For now, the Nisqually Tribe is continuing to wear masks while in most buildings except when you are in a personal space with no one else near you. Exceptions to this are that anyone entering the Health building must wear a mask. Daycare, Early Headstart and Headstart will also continue to mask to protect these little ones.

Moving forward into the endemic phase of COVID will not be like an on and off switch. It will be more like a dimmer where we will move up and down as the need arises.

This week we have reopened the café at the Health Department to indoor dining with half of the tables removed and seating limited to two individuals per table. If we can keep the numbers down here on the reservation and with our employees, we hope to cautiously make small changes to get us back to normal over the next couple of months.

Mary Szafranski, PHO