

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Neighbors,

We are living in difficult times and now more than ever its important to be a good neighbor. Whether you are new to the neighborhood or a founding member we want to give you some handy tips about COVID safety and neighborliness!

BE COVID SAFE

- PRACTICE THE 3Ws
 - **W**ash your hands: Use soap & water for 20 seconds
 - **W**ear your mask: Cover your nose and mouth
 - **W**atch your distance: Stay 6 feet apart and avoid crowds
- CLEAN YOUR SURFACES
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily: phone, keyboard, TV remote, game controllers, desk, doorknobs, light switches, sinks, and toilets
- CHECK YOUR SYMPTOMS
 - Stay home and call your healthcare provider if you have ANY symptom that you can't attribute to another health condition like fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat.

BE A GREAT NEIGHBOR

- INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
 - Say 'Hello' or smile at your neighbors when you see them.
- GET INVOLVED.
 - Learn about the issues affecting your community and become part of the solution.
- BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR NEIGHBORS.
 - Keep noise levels low enough so that your neighbors can't hear. Bellingham has a round-the-clock noise ordinance which means anyone can be cited for parties, outside gatherings, and/or loud music, day or night.

MORE TIPS

- PARKING
 - Park only in designated spots; please leave room for your neighbors to get out and for pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk.
- CLEAN UP
 - Keep your yard free from litter and junk. Do your part to keep your neighborhood and the bay clean!
 - Recycle your boxes by flattening them and putting them in bundles no bigger than 24"x48"x6"
- COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- To learn more tips about living off campus check out Western’s Off Campus Living Website: www.wvu.edu/offcampusliving
- To learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a renter check out www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/your-rights-as-a-tenant-in-washington
- To make sure your rental home has had a safety inspection check www.cob.org/services/housing/rentals/
- JUST MOVED?
 - Make sure to fill out your damage checklist and take LOTS of photos or a video of your new home. They will come in handy when it comes time to receive your deposit.
 - If you are a Western student, update your address in Web4U.

WWU LAUNCHES “BE WELL” CAMPAIGN

WWU has launched its “Be Well” campaign to ensure students are well informed of the community and university safety guidelines as they return for online learning and some very limited in-person instruction. Through emails, social media, posters and partnerships with area landlords, Western is working to ensure that all students follow important health and safety guidelines such as the importance of wearing face coverings, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings to ensure the wellbeing of our community. In addition, Western’s Associated Students (AS) has launched an innovative peer-to-peer social media messaging campaign from students to students on COVID-19 health precautions. And both WWU’s Prevention and Wellness office and AS Communications are working closely with the Whatcom County Health Department, along with the public information officers of Western, Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College, on a social media strategy to ensure that our students and local young adults are getting consistent information to help them make smart decisions for themselves and the community during the pandemic. This work has included an online survey led by Western Professor of Public Health Steve Bennett and student focus groups to help provide insight on what messaging might work best for our audience and will continue through the fall.

Landlords are encouraged to remind tenants to follow the state’s COVID-19 safety guidelines for the safety of our community. **To receive a packet containing posters to display or to share with tenants, please contact Chris Roselli, WWU Director of Community Relations, at chris.roselli@wwu.edu.** More about Western’s health and safety during COVID-19 can be found via the links:

<https://www.wvu.edu/safe-start/posters>

<https://www.wvu.edu/fall-guide/health-safety>

<https://www.wvu.edu/safe-start/face-coverings>

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS & REGISTER TO VOTE

November 3 is election day! Make sure you are registered to vote and have the correct address on file, so you receive your ballot. You can register to vote, update your address and check your voter registration at www.votewa.gov. Ballots drop on October 14. If you don't receive your ballot by October 20, you will need to go to www.votewa.gov immediately to find out how to get a replacement ballot.

WWU COVID-19 DASHBOARD

Western's Student Health Center has developed a dashboard showing results of COVID-19 testing of Western students. The dashboard can be found at https://www.wvu.edu/coronavirusopen_in_new(opens in new window). This dashboard, updated daily, now shows figures for COVID-19 testing for Western students, including the number of positive cases and total cases.