



## COVID-19 RESPONSE EDITION

### Reduced service on several central Puget Sound routes

In addition to the [extension of our winter sailing schedules](#), several of our central Puget Sound routes are temporarily operating with [reduced service](#) as part of the state's response to COVID-19. The reductions started Sunday, March 29, and will remain in place through at least April 25.

Sailings on the [Seattle/Bainbridge](#) and [Seattle/Bremerton](#) routes are reduced by about half. The "Triangle" route – [Fautleroy/Vashon](#), [Fautleroy/Southworth](#), and [Southworth/Vashon](#) – is on a two-boat schedule, reducing sailings by about one-third.

April 2, 2020

#### Loss of employee

I am sorry to share that we lost a member of our WSF family last week due to complications from COVID-19. Our hearts go out to the family Esther Bryant-Kyles, who was a longtime employee with us. She was most recently a ticket seller at Colman Dock. Her family wanted us to pass on what a positive influence her customers and coworkers were to her. We have reached out directly to any coworkers that may have had direct contact with Esther.



*Esther Bryant-Kyles*

Employee webinars on our COVID-19 strategy



*The cancellation of these sailings will give vessel crews and terminal staff more time to thoroughly clean and sanitize, making the ferries safer for everyone.*

In addition, the final roundtrips of each sailing day have been suspended on the Seattle/Bainbridge, Seattle/Bremerton and [Mukilteo/Clinton](#) routes. On the [Edmonds/Kingston](#) route, we have suspended the final roundtrip on Fridays and Saturdays only. Four daily late night/early morning sailings on the “Triangle” route have been suspended.

Emergency medical services have been notified of the schedule changes and will continue to have priority boarding as the situation allows. Further cancellations and adjustments are possible depending on ridership trends.

During this anxious time I've had the opportunity to be able to virtually speak to our employees as the COVID-19 outbreak has progressed. We've held two staff webinars, each with more than 200 live participants, and many more who watched or participated at a later time.

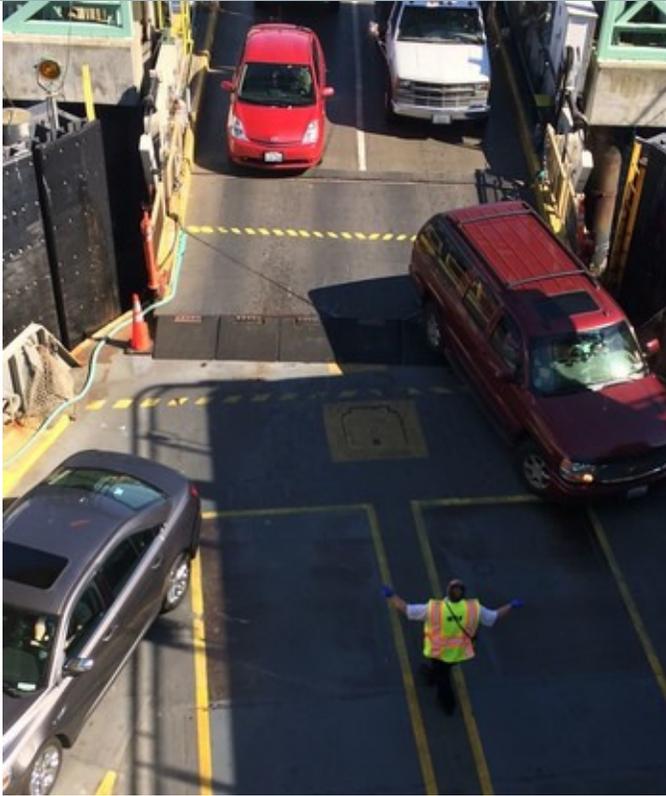


*I look forward to continuing to hold these staff webinars as we sail through these uncharted waters together.*

Chief of Staff Nicole McIntosh and I presented the latest news on our virus response strategy and answered questions from employees, pulling in experts like WSDOT Director of Human Resources Jeff Pelton and WSF Director of Operations Capt. Greg Faust.



“Thank you to the Washington State Ferries crew and staff for being on the front line of our transportation needs during this unprecedented time. Our constituents in the San Juans need to have reliable ferry service and the dedication of these



employees shows every day.”

-Sen. Liz Lovelett  
(40th District)

*If riding in a vehicle onto our ferries, we highly recommend that you remain in your vehicle so walk-on passengers and our crews have more room to social distance.*

Customers can sign up for [email rider alerts](#), check [WSF COVID-19 travel updates](#) and follow WSF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for notification of resumption of regular service and other rider information.

**Amy Scarton**

Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division



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