

# Let's work together this Labor Day to keep Kitsap County on track

Labor Day weekend is a time to celebrate the changing of seasons, the return of school, and our united strength as a country. But like so many traditions, our Labor Day festivities need to look different this year. Why?

**We have already seen what happens when we do not rein in our holiday celebrations during the time of COVID-19, and it isn't pretty.**

Earlier this year, Memorial Day, Father's Day, and Fourth of July gatherings contributed to spikes in COVID-19 cases. Kitsap Public Health District case investigators noted a marked increase in cases linked to social events, family get-togethers, cross-country trips, and crowded bars. As cases surged through July and into August, we reported more hospitalizations and, sadly, more deaths.



*Dr. Gib Morrow*

The rate of new COVID-19 cases reported in Kitsap is now declining — a sign that the hard work we are all putting in to slow the spread of the virus is making a difference. We need to keep that momentum rolling into fall. **By preventing more people from getting sick and pushing our case numbers lower, we will create the opportunity to open more businesses and classrooms.** A new spike in cases could further delay returning our children to in-person learning, or force closures for schools that have already chosen to resume in-person instruction.

We hope you celebrate this Labor Day, but celebrate safely. Keep your backyard BBQ limited to your close family or a couple of friends. Pick a picnic spot that's close to home and not too crowded. Take a rain check on that big reunion.

Let's labor together to keep our county on the right track so we can save lives and get back to doing the things we want to be doing. **Thank you for doing your part to keep our community healthy!**

**Dr. Gib Morrow**  
Health Officer  
Kitsap Public Health District

