

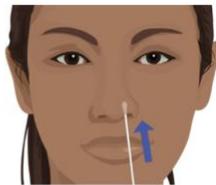


Dear Reader: *Salish Current* has been publishing for over six months, since our soft launch in February. To increase our readership, we ask if you would share this newsletter with friends and associates who share our mission and ask them to send us at SalishCurrent@gmail.com their names and emails if they'd like to receive the next newsletter. (Names and emails are never sold nor traded.) Thanks! Amy Nelson, publisher, and Mike Sato, managing editor.

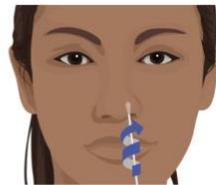
News from the *Salish Current* for the week ending Oct. 16, 2020:

[Fighting COVID with a swab:](#) [testing remains a vital weapon in saving lives](#)

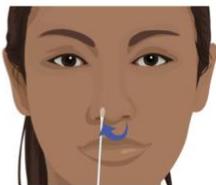
Insert the swab into your nostril. Do not insert it more than half an inch into your nostril.



Slowly twist the swab, rubbing it along the insides of your nostril for 15 seconds.



Using the same swab, repeat steps 4-6 in your other nostril.



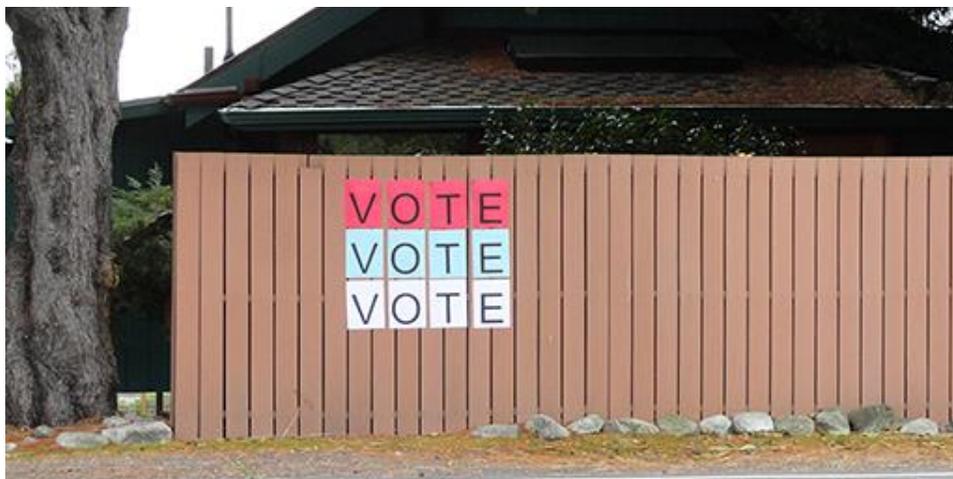
The cotton swab is a primary tool in a widely used test for COVID-19, and a vital part of the strategy being deployed to help keep the virus from spreading. At left, a detail from [instructions for a kit for taking test samples](#) illustrates one of many resources available from the Centers for Disease Control.

By Alex Meacham — What does it mean to get a negative COVID-19 test result? It means an unmasked sigh of relief, that once again, in a year fraught with worry, there's one less thing to be actively worried about.

The negative result, however, does not always mean that the virus isn't present. Nonetheless, testing is an important part of the strategy to help stanch the spread of COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

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[About my first time ... voting / Community Voices](#)



Voted yet? Remember your first time? Ballots for the 2020 general election began arriving in mailboxes this week, along with reminders such as this on a south Bellingham fence.

By Mike Sato — The first time I voted was in November 1968. I was angry and scared about the war, heartbroken about Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy, exhausted after working for Eugene McCarthy and watching Hubert Humphrey nominated, and filling out an absentee ballot sent from Hawaii. [Read more.](#)

Salish Current *affirms its commitment to work for truth, justice, equality and healing for all people.*
#SayTheirNames #BlackLivesMatter #NoJusticeNoPeace

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News from around the region:

Health & Safety

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to keep Canada's borders closed as long as coronavirus cases remain elevated in the U.S. [\(Bloomberg News\)](#)
- New COVID-19 cases in Skagit County have steadily risen to 41.8 cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period, a rising trend since early October. [\(Skagit Valley Herald/paywall\)](#)
- Whatcom County has 52.4 cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period. [\(Bellingham Herald\)](#)

- Thirty eight of the 40 people tested in Bellingham's Highland Health nursing home tested positive for COVID-19 and 10 have died; 18 of 60 staff have also tested positive. ([Bellingham Herald](#))

Education

- Leave college or stay in college when finances are strained? Western Washington University tries to help. ([Western Front](#))
- Bellingham School District will begin in-person classes for younger students and special needs students on Nov. 2 and Nov. 12. ([Bellingham School District](#))

Government

City of Bellingham

- Special meetings of the Bellingham City Council to discuss the [2021-2022 preliminary budget](#) are scheduled for Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2. The special budget meeting on Oct. 5 can be [viewed here](#) and the special budget meeting on Oct. 12 can be [viewed here](#).
- The Bellingham City Council met in regular session on [Oct. 12](#) and held a public hearing and adopted (Hammill excused) a resolution in support of renewal of the Bellingham Transportation Fund in the November 2020 general election. ([22767](#))
- The next regular meeting of the Bellingham City Council is scheduled for Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.

Whatcom County

- The Whatcom County Council met [Oct. 13](#) and approved the [Public Participation Plan](#) with additions for remote participation and approved the appointment to the Climate Impact Advisory Committee of applicants Stevan Harrell, Sue Gunn and Hunter Hassig.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Whatcom County Council is Oct. 27. To participate, [click here](#).

Port of Bellingham

- The Port of Bellingham Commission met on Oct. 6. Here is the [agenda](#) and the [video](#) of the proceedings.
- The Port announced that its 2021 Preliminary Strategic Budget will be available electronically on Oct. 26 [online](#). The Port will have presentations and hold public hearings on the budget and the proposed 2021 property tax levy on Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. at Harbor Center Room and via Zoom. Written comments will be accepted through 5 p.m. Nov. 16. The Port is scheduled to formally adopt the budget on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m.

Nature

- The North American wolverine found in mountain habitats including the North Cascades does not warrant federal Endangered Species Act protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced,

because "wolverine populations in the American Northwest remain stable, and individuals are moving across the Canadian border in both directions and returning to former territories." ([Skagit Valley Herald/paywall](#))

- A second live Asian hornet found last week near Blaine lost its radio transmitter and foiling efforts to locate its nest. ([My Ferndale News](#))
- Friends of Skagit Beaches is coordinating with the city of Anacortes and the Samish Nation to train volunteers to monitor the city's 79 stormwater outfalls once a month. ([Skagit Valley Herald/paywall](#))
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group's "[Salmon Sightings](#)" website a website provides an interactive map of the best stream banks in Skagit County to see returning salmon. ([Skagit Valley Herald/paywall](#))

Business

- The Port of Bellingham has been awarded a \$6.85 million U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant to upgrade the Bellingham Shipping Terminal, increase trade and commerce, and restore working waterfront jobs. ([Whatcom Talk](#))
- A high impact scenario of discontinuing the Anacortes-Sydney B.C. ferry route estimates \$54 million income and 393 local jobs affected, according to a [study and survey](#) conducted by the San Juan County Economic Development Council and Anacortes organizations. ([San Juan Journal](#))

Community

- *What's Up!*, Bellingham's music scene magazine published for 22 years, shut down. ([Western Front](#))
- Orcas Island's Prune Alley redevelopment has hit a snag because moving the main sewer line that runs along the road was not include in the current plan. ([The Orcasonian](#))

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Salish Current is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, online local news organization serving Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit Counties. Salish Current exists to protect and improve democratic governance by reporting and curating local news with independence and strict journalistic integrity.

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