

## NEWS

# Nine infected in COVID-19 outbreak among Port Orchard Fred Meyer employees

**Josh Farley**, Kitsap Sun

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PORT ORCHARD — Nine employees of the Port Orchard Fred Meyer have been infected with the novel coronavirus, its parent company confirmed Wednesday.

The employees are "self-quarantining" per company protocols, according to company spokesman Jeffery Temple, and the Sedgwick Road store has been sanitized on multiple occasions by outside cleaning vendors.

The nine are a part of a team of 330 workers at the store, which remains open, at a time when COVID-19 cases are spiking around the state. Kitsap County added 64 more cases on Wednesday.

Temple said Fred Meyer "has taken extensive measures to safeguard our associates, customers and supply chain, ensuring local communities always have access to fresh, affordable food."

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That includes various initiatives, including the requirement for face masks, social distancing and limiting store capacity as required by the state. Employees must also have their temperatures taken and go through a symptoms checklist prior to work.

"Through regular communication with the Health Department, we've affirmed that our processes continue to live up to our high safety standards in protecting our more than 39,000 associates and the millions of customers that visit our stores each week" at Fred Meyer, Temple said.

There have been "multiple professional third-party sanitation deep cleaning sessions" at the store since the outbreak began, Temple said.

"At Fred Meyer, our associates are like family," Temple said. "We are in communication with our associates that have tested positive to assist in their needs. Our thoughts are with them as they recover, and we wish them well."

In Kitsap County, a total of 141 people are in isolation with the virus while another 737 people are quarantining as a result of possible exposure, according to the Kitsap Public Health District. An outbreak involving at least 13 people at the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Reservation was also

reported Wednesday.

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