



Cowlitz County

County Administration Building
207 Fourth Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626
TEL (360) 577-3020
FAX (360) 423-9987
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

News Release

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Contact

Cowlitz DEM PIO
Media Contact Number
Phone: (360) 442-7082

COVID-19 RESPONSE

IN A UNITED EFFORT TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE BUILDING CLOSURES AND MODIFIED CUSTOMER SERVICE PLANS

Effective March 17, 2020

To minimize the health impacts of COVID-19, Cowlitz County and the Cities of Longview, Kelso, Woodland, Kalama, and Castle Rock are closing some buildings and offices to the public. At the same time, we are working diligently to modify our customer service plans so that all essential work and services will continue.

We understand these actions likely will have a significant impact on all members of our community.

On Sunday, Cowlitz County Public Health confirmed the first local case of COVID-19 in our community; a Lewis County resident at Peace Health St. John in Longview. City and County leadership have come together to present a unified message to the public about the importance and urgency of implementing social distancing. This is a critical moment in the development of an expanding public health crisis. As a community, we urgently need to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep our hospitals and emergency rooms from becoming overwhelmed with patients. Decreasing the spread of the virus requires conscientious social distancing efforts by all County residents. Our collective effort literally can save the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

For your health and the health of County/City employees, please first check online for any services you may need. We want to limit public contact in our buildings. Essential services from first-responders will continue, and many departments will continue to operate with modified services to minimize in-person contacts.

Residents should go to each local jurisdictions' website for up-to-date information on closures and modified customer service plans.

City recreational programs, libraries, and the County museum are closed indefinitely.

If we work together and accept the unique nature of COVID-19 we can help to limit its' adverse impact on our community.

For specific closure information by department please utilize the following links to each jurisdiction:

Cowlitz County

<https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/>

City of Longview

<https://www.mylongview.com/>

City of Kelso

<https://www.kelso.gov/>

City of Kalama

<https://www.cityofkalama.com/>

City of Castle Rock

<https://ci.castle-rock.wa.us/>

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