



Board of County Commissioners

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Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lewis County, Washington – Sept. 4, 2020

Commissioners invite public to COVID-19 Education Forum online Sept. 10

Recognizing the importance of giving the community the opportunity to participate in planning the “restart” process for area schools, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is inviting the public to attend a COVID-19 Education Forum from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

A panel of experts from the health and education fields will join the Lewis County Commissioners for the online forum, which also will be accessible by phone. The event will include a presentation about the pandemic, including current health recommendations around schools, followed by a question-and-answer session. The forum will be moderated and the moderator has asked that all questions and discussion remain civil and respectful.

Those wishing to submit questions are encouraged to do so via email at bocc@lewiscountywa.gov by 3 p.m. Sept. 10. A limited number of questions also may be fielded during the meeting using the “chat” feature of the online version of Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/92770578873>).

Submitting a question

In advance (preferred method): Email questions to bocc@lewiscountywa.gov by 3 p.m. Sept. 10.

During the event: Members of the panel may be able to answer a very limited number of live questions using the “chat” feature in Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/92770578873>).

Questions will not be accepted via Facebook.

Attending the forum

- **To join online:** Go to <https://zoom.us/j/92770578873>.
- **To join by phone:** Call 888-475-4499. The meeting ID is 927 7057 8873.
- **Viewing only:** This meeting will stream live on the Commissioners' Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LewisCountyCommissioners/> and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa>.

This forum is designed to provide a platform for addressing questions related to all schools in Lewis County. Questions regarding specific school districts' plans should be directed to those districts separately.

“Community information and community engagement are important, and we want to provide our parents, teachers and friends an opportunity to ask questions,” said Commissioner Gary Stamper, who serves as chair of the BOCC. “We also want to give the community a chance to hear directly from the medical professionals who are working with area school districts, and we want to help the community better understand how Public Health & Social Services is addressing the education issue – for in-person classes and virtual learning.”

Stamper noted that community members can find the most up-to-date county information on the Public Health & Social Services website at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/>.

“The conversations regarding COVID-19 and education are ongoing and ever-changing,” Commissioner Stamper said. “We want the public to understand the challenges and be a part of those conversations.”

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