



News Release

For immediate release: March 18, 2020

For more information contact:

lcphsspio@lewiscountywa.gov

Lewis County Commissioners Close County Buildings for Public and Staff Safety

Chehalis, WA – The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) passed a resolution in emergency session March 18, 2020 closing most county offices to the general public effective at 5 pm on that date. Board members emphasized in the resolution and meeting their commitment to sustaining the highest possible level of services for citizens while keeping the public and county employees safe during the COVID-19 crisis.

The resolution states:

1. All county facilities and buildings will be closed to public access with access available only to county employees, with the exception of the Lewis County Law and Justice Center and the Coroner's Office, which will have limited access for the public.
2. The BOCC will cancel its legislative meetings (the "BOCC Business Meeting") planned for March 23 and March 30, 2020.
3. The presiding judges may make independent decisions concerning the operations of the Law and Justice Center and the Juvenile Court building, and the Coroner may make independent decisions concerning the operations of the Coroner's Office.
4. The closures discussed herein shall be in effect through Friday, April 3, 2020, unless otherwise announced by the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioners pointed out that while buildings are closed, county government remains open for business. Many county offices and departments can provide essential services through web services, email, and telephone without having their doors open to the public. The county has launched a website at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/homeservices> where citizens can see what services are provided online, by mail, and by phone for each county department.

In taking this action, the BOCC recognized the severity of the situation demanded measures be taken to protect the public and county employees from further spread of COVID-19. These closures will protect people who might otherwise be gathered in one building, especially when queues for some services put people in close proximity for times greater than recommended.

The BOCC will monitor the disease situation and evaluate building closure status between now and April 3.

#