



Cowlitz County Health & Human Services Departments

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www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/hhs

Board of County Commissioners

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| Arne Mortensen | District 1 |
| Dennis Weber | District 2 |
| Joe Gardner | District 3 |

Effective March 17, 2020

Health & Human Services Offices and Social Distancing Measures

Both offices of Cowlitz County Health & Human Services will be closed to walk-in traffic, this includes the Environmental Health Unit located in Kelso. Business that cannot be done online, by phone, or email will be done by appointment or teleconferencing to minimize the possibility of congestion in a shared space and to encourage social distancing. The decision to close our lobbies was made in consideration of the health of our customers, employees, and the community.

While our lobbies are closed we will be accepting permit applications, revisions, and other requests through multiple platforms.

Vital Records

Birth and death certificates may be purchased online at www.vitalchek.com or by printing an application and mailing it with payment using forms available on our website: <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/732/Birth-and-Death-Certificates>.

Funeral Directors may schedule an appointment to pick up death certificates by calling 360-414-5599, and choosing option 6. Certificates may also be provided by USPS mail if requested.

Environmental Health Services Activities

Food Establishment inspections will continue for food facilities that remain open for take-out and drive-thru business. Inspections will be conducted with increased social distancing measures; we ask that you please allow inspectors to maintain good social distancing, as much as possible, between themselves and any other people in establishments.

Food plan reviews and other environmental health activities usually done in the office can be done by scheduling an appointment using our online appointment request [form](#) or by calling 360-414-5599, choosing option 5, and then option 1.

Environmental Health Unit Activities

Septic and water system permits and designs can be processed by email or USPS mail. Permits cannot be issued until check or money order for payment has been received through USPS mail. Field inspections related to septic and water systems will continue as normal with increased social distancing measures; we ask that you please allow inspectors to maintain good social distance, at least 6 feet, between themselves and anyone working on the job site. Please adhere to good personal hygiene practices including staying off the job when ill and washing hands frequently. For more information contact the Environmental Health Unit at 360-414-5599, choose option 5, and then option 2 or email us at O&MSeptic@co.cowlitz.wa.us.

Other Activities

All meetings and committee meetings are cancelled and will be rescheduled via teleconference, if possible.