



WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-01

ADJUSTING COUNTY OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 EVENT

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is committed to sustaining the highest possible level of service for citizens during the COVID-19 event; and

WHEREAS, some County offices can provide essential services through web services, email, and telephone without doors being open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the normal hours during which Whatcom County offices are open for the transaction of business shall be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding holidays [County Code 2.64]; however,

WHEREAS, limiting public contact can create "social-distance" safety for employees and safer operations for an office if the number of employees reporting to work drops below certain thresholds; and

WHEREAS limiting public contact will also help achieve the goal of social distancing to provide support for containment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, each Department Head and Elected Official is empowered to limit hours of doors-open public service on a day-by-day basis based on the following criteria:

1. Determining which essential public services must be provided and plan for maintaining the new level of service
2. Ensuring telecommuting employees meet HR policy
3. Assigning available staff to perform essential public services
4. Posting public hours on the office door and the department's county website home page
5. Ensuring the County Executive's Office is kept apprised of the department's hours of operation

NOW, THEREFORE, BY virtue of the power vested in me by the home rule charter for Whatcom County, I hereby declare that during the COVID-19 event, and while the County is NOT closed by Emergency Declaration, County operations shall limit as many "in-person" services as possible by start of business on March 18th, 2020;

DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Satpal Singh Sidhu in blue ink.

Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

Approved As To Form:

Handwritten signature of the Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in blue ink.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Date: 3/16/2020