



NEWS *from Clatsop County*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, March 16, 2020

COMMISSIONERS DECLARE EMERGENCY; COUNTY RESTRICTS PUBLIC ACCESS

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners have voted to declare a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak while the county is restricting public access to its offices and cancelling meetings of its advisory committees.

The declaration, adopted Monday, March 16, authorizes the board "to take such actions and issue such orders as are determined to be necessary to protect the public and property and to efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency." The declaration will be in place through May 1, 2020.

The declaration will enable the board to take actions specific to the county in addition to those already declared by the State of Oregon, if they are deemed necessary. It will also qualify the county for state and federal assistance and reimbursement for costs associated with the local COVID-19 response.

Actions enabled by the order could include curfews, limits on public gatherings, mutual aid agreements and redirection of county funds.

Also Monday, the County Manager's office announced that, beginning Wednesday, March 18 and lasting through April 10, all county offices will be closed to walk-in traffic. Offices will be accessible by appointment only and to meet urgent needs. The public is encouraged to do business by phone and online as much as possible.

All activities at the Clatsop County Fair & Expo have been cancelled.

All scheduled meetings of county advisory boards and commissions will be cancelled during this March 18 to April 10 period, including workshops and training sessions. All meetings of the Board of Commissioners scheduled for this time period will be conducted by phone; the public will be able to follow the meetings by live audio stream. Individuals may submit questions or comments to the board via email (commissioners@co.clatsop.or.us) by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Upcoming meeting agendas will be amended to postpone substantive policy making (including public hearings) until after the temporary curtailment period.

Clatsop County employees will remain on the job and working during this period. The dates of the restricted access and meeting cancellation may be modified depending on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Oregon Health Authority and Clatsop County Public Health.

To find the phone number or email address of a county department or office, go to www.co.clatsop.or.us.

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Released by:
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