

the PACIFIC COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY preparedness post

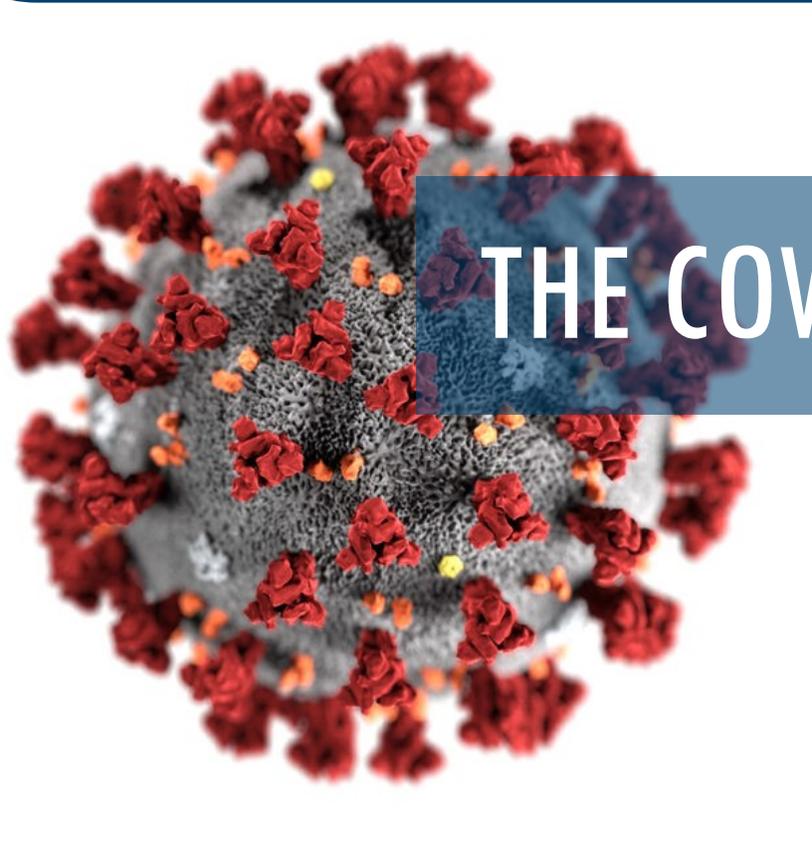
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SPECIAL ISSUE

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



On March 17, 2020 the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to Level 1 (full activation) in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

EOC CALL CENTER

Open from Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to answer the public's questions.

360-875-9407 or 360-642-9407

pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us

Why was the EOC activated?

Pacific County currently has no active cases of Covid-19, however, it is imperative that we stay ahead of the curve in preparation for both the potential health impacts to the community AND the potential economic impacts resulting from widespread closures.

NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "This is a new (novel) disease and we are still learning how it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States." The situation is rapidly evolving, but at the time of publication, there are 186,101 cases (3,603 deaths) nationally, 5,984 cases in Washington State (247 deaths) and no cases in Pacific County (with 55 negative tests). Neighboring Clatsop, Grays Harbor and Lewis counties have reported cases. CDC image.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



As I'm sure you know, we are in the midst of an emergency. It's a global pandemic, the likes of which hasn't occurred in over a century. Life as we know it has ground to a halt as we work to contain the spread of a virus which we are still trying to fully understand. Beyond the serious public health im-

plications, I know residents of Pacific County and beyond are grappling with the ramifications of school closures, layoffs and an economic recession.

So many of you are scared or worried. I want you to know that your local response agencies and leaders are committed to supporting you through this crisis. We are so fortunate to reside in a small county that has already built the kind of community partnerships that a successful emergency response demands. In the last 15 years we've been through devastating storms and tsunami evacuations that shook up the community and helped us fine-tune our emergency response capabilities. The people working to mitigate this ongoing crisis are your friends and neighbors. We love this place and the people in it, and I know together we will get through this and we will recover.

Right now, I feel like I'm part of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and I'm "getting by with a little help from my friends." My friends at the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, and my friends within Pacific County government at the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Community Development have all come together to do their part in a unified and cooperative county-level response. We are collaborating on solutions and we will do everything within our power to mitigate this crisis. We are working with countless other public and private partners to provide solutions to the many challenges we all currently face.

I want to thank those who are on the front lines here in Pacific County providing essential services. I also want to thank everyone who is working to stop the spread by staying home. We all have a part to play in this. It's a daunting challenge before us, but I am continually heartened by the strength and spirit of our unique community. I know we will not only come through this, we will do so with the dignity and resilience we have already shown time and again in the face of crisis.

Scott

SUPPLY DONATIONS

We truly have a great community! Donated personal protective equipment (PPE) keeps rolling in and we appreciate it! We do need more PPE supplies and we are still accepting them. Our first responders and medical professionals thank you!

WHERE TO DONATE (MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM-4PM)

- SHERIFF'S OFFICE NORTH COUNTY
(300 Memorial Drive, South Bend)
- SOUTH COUNTY ADMIN BUILDING
(7013 Sandridge Road, Long Beach)



March 28-29 & April 4-5 CERT TRAINING CANCELLED

But you can review course materials at home while you wait to take the class!

<https://www.ready.gov/cert>

The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and your neighborhood in an emergency.

The program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.



LIMITED DRIVE THROUGH TESTING AVAILABLE

A limited supply of COVID-19 testing supplies will be made available at drive through testing events for symptomatic priority groups (outlined below). Drive through testing will occur on April 2, 2020 (Long Beach) and April 3, 2020 (South Bend).

Appointments for those meeting the criteria of a symptomatic priority group (outlined below) can be made by calling the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center at 360-875-9407 or 360-642-9407, from 8am-4pm Monday-Friday.

SYMPTOMATIC—One or more of the following symptoms are required for testing:

- fever >100.4 degrees
- dry cough
- shortness of breath

PRIORITY GROUPS:

- Symptomatic Healthcare workers (Includes all staff, such as kitchen staff, maintenance, etc., who work in healthcare facilities including long term care and assisted facilities. This also includes home health care workers).
- Symptomatic Public Safety workers (Includes law enforcement, corrections officers, fire fighters and EMS workers).
- Symptomatic Pharmacy and Grocery Store workers.

SCAM ALERT

From the Washington State office of The Attorney General: The federal government is seeing an increase in scams related to federal stimulus payments including phone calls, text messages and e-mails phishing for information. The messaging includes variations of language such as "in order to receive your/your client's stimulus payment via direct deposit, we need you to confirm the banking information" and they are gathering that information via telephone or directing victims to click on a link that takes them to a website where they enter their banking information. Here's some important things to know:

- The government will not ask you to pay anything up front to get this money.
- The government will not call to ask for your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number.

A WORD FROM SHERIFF SOUVENIR

The Role of law enforcement as it pertains to the current situation:



Law enforcement's primary role is to help educate people about how to comply with orders regarding public health emergencies including those to stay at home should they come down. We are not being asked to detain, arrest, ticket or establish checkpoints for compliance. Rumors of strict law enforcement or "martial law" are not true.

We view our role more as one of education. Educating residents on how to keep themselves safe, how to keep their families safe and most importantly, to keep the rest of the community safe, especially our vulnerable populations.

We absolutely understand some people need to carry out essential services such as:

- Safety and security
- Food, water, shelter
- Health and medical
- Energy (power and fuel)
Communications
- Transportation

Our community has shown they understand the severity of the situation and are doing all they can already to keep themselves, their families and neighbors safe and healthy.

When officers encounter people not complying with an order, we will remind them, as appropriate, of the recommendation and restrictions.

No law enforcement agencies have any desire to make any arrests or take anybody to jail for violations.

Rumors of individuals or businesses needing "passes" or "licenses" to conduct essential services are not true.

Pacific County Department of Community Development will be the initial agency for investigating reports of businesses operating in violation of social distancing orders in Pacific County. If you observe non-compliance and would like to report, contact the EOC at (360) 875-9407 or (360) 642-9407, or pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

From Governor Jay Inslee: All people in Washington State are immediately prohibited from leaving their home or place of residence except to conduct or participate in (1) essential activities, and/or (2) employment in providing essential business services. Use the link below to access the full detailed information about closures.

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed/essential-business>

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

These are workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors. The full list (available at the link above) is extensive and detailed. Listed below are only a small fraction of the major work types to give you an idea of the scope of current orders.

- Health sector workers, including those who provide direct care and those who support the system such as IT professionals, cooks, janitors, and medical supply manufacturers.
- Emergency services sector workers including those in law enforcement, fire, emergency management, and the military. Included in this sector is public works, which has workers who maintain and repair critical infrastructure such as roads or dams. Workers such as plumbers, electricians, and exterminators are also included in this sector, and they are allowed to work to maintain essential operation of residences as well.
- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, and other retail that sells food and beverage products, including but not limited to grocery stores, corner stores and convenience stores, including liquor stores that sell food, farmers' markets, food banks, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, similar food retail establishments, big box stores that sell groceries and essentials.
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations – including food preparation, carry-out and delivery food employees.
- Commercial retail workers for stores that supply essential sectors, including convenience stores, pet supply stores, auto supplies and repair, hardware and home improvement, garden stores and nurseries that support food cultivation and production, office supply stores that support working-from home, and home appliance retailers.

Unless you are going to work to provide an essential service,

YOU MAY ONLY LEAVE YOUR HOME TO:

- Obtain necessary supplies and services for family or household members and pets, such as groceries, food and supplies for household consumption and use, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, and products necessary to maintain safety, sanitation and essential maintenance of the home or residence.
- Engage in activities essential for the health and safety of family, household members and pets, including things such as seeking medical or behavioral health or emergency services and obtaining medical supplies or medication.
- Care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household or residence, and to transport a family member, friend or their pet for essential health and safety activities, and to obtain necessary supplies and services.
- Engage in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running or biking, but only if appropriate social distancing practices are used.

ADDITIONAL CLOSURES

STATEWIDE-DNR

Closures are in place for all Washington State Department of Natural Resources managed lands, which include trailheads, trails, roads, free flight launch sites, campgrounds, water access sites, day-use areas, and dispersed recreation (camping, off-trail hiking, hunting, target shooting, etc.)

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec2020_rec_closure.pdf?yp2a3d

STATEWIDE— PARKS/WDFW

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife announced the temporary closure of all state-managed parks, wildlife areas, and water-access areas. WDFW is closing recreational fishing and shellfishing statewide in response to the governor's order

to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" and limit the spread of coronavirus. Hunting has also been impacted. Please visit the links below for more information.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates>

<https://parks.state.wa.us/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=COVID-19-update-32420-STATE-PARKS-ARE-CL-2668>

PACIFIC COUNTY

On March 22nd, all ocean beach approaches and hospitality lodging within Pacific County were closed. The City of Long Beach also closed beach approaches within its jurisdiction. County operations and office hours have been impacted. Visit the Pacific County website (below) for more information.

www.co.pacific.wa.us

The EOC is Here for You

Pacific County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday) to answer the public's questions.



pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us

**360-875-9407 or
360-642-9407**



PHOTO RIGHT: Pacific County EOC, March 24, 2020.

This is an amazing group of people working together in support of our community.

PCEMA MONTHLY CALENDAR

AHAB Siren Test

First Monday of the month at noon

PCARC Meeting CANCELLED

The Pacific County Amateur Radio Club typically meets every second Saturday of the month at Hunter's Inn - Naselle - 9:00 a.m.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

* Please note, this is an emerging and rapidly evolving situation. New symptoms may be added to this list. Please check the CDC website below for up to date information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/>

- Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.
- Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

COMMON SYMPTOMS:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

SICK? HERE'S WHAT TO DO

From the Washington State Department of Public Health: If you are ill with fever and a cough or shortness of breath, stay home. If you are unsure of how to care for yourself or are concerned about your condition, call your health care provider for advice. If you feel you need to visit your doctor, call them first. Keep yourself separated from other people and animals in your home. Cover your coughs and sneezes and wash your hands often.

In addition, the CDC has introduced an online screening tool that can help you decide what steps to take if you are experiencing symptoms. Visit the link (right) to learn more.

HOW IT SPREADS



From the CDC:

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A variety of treatments are being explored, though much research must still be done. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- It can spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread"). Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.



COVID-19 Screening Tool

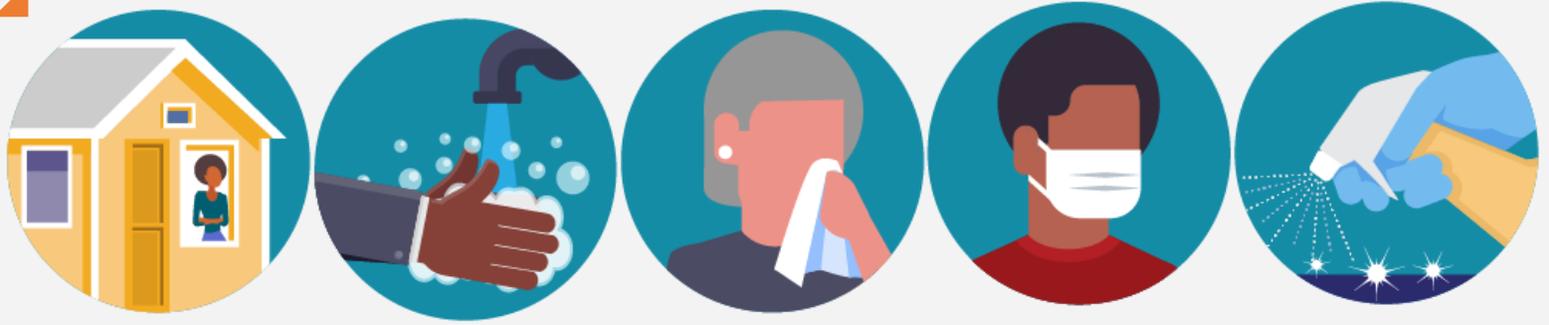
This tool can help you understand what to do next about COVID-19.

Let's all look out for each other by knowing our status, trying not to infect others, and reserving care for those in need.

Start Screening



<https://www.apple.com/covid19/>



TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Stay home. Avoid close contact. Clean your hands often. Cover coughs and sneezes. Wear a facemask if you are sick. Clean and disinfect.



STAY HOME STAY SAFE : The best way to prevent illness it is to stay home and limit your exposure to the virus. If you are asymptomatic but still contagious, you could unknowingly expose others to the virus as well. Stay home.

CLEAN & DISINFECT : Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES : Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPER DISINFECTION :
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

CLEAN YOUR HANDS OFTEN : Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



WEAR A FACE MASK IF SICK : You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.



STAY INFORMED

Pacific County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Call Center:

360-875-9407 or 360-642-9407. Open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

PCEMA Facebook: www.facebook.com/PCEMA

Pacific County Government: www.co.pacific.wa.us

Pacific County Health and Human Services:

<https://www.facebook.com/PacificCountyPublicHealthHumanServices/>
<http://pacificcountyhealthdepartment.com/>

WA State: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

WA State Closures: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/whats-open-and-closed/essential-business>

WA State Department of Health (DOH): <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus>

WA DOH Blog "Public Connection": <https://medium.com/wadepthealth>

WA DOH Hotline: (6:00am-10:00pm): Call 1-800-525-0127 and press # for COVID-19 questions.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR): <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/slider>

Washington State Parks: <https://parks.state.wa.us/1177/Novel-Coronavirus---COVID-19>

National Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

CDC Screening Tool: <https://www.apple.com/covid19/>

PCEMA CONTACTS

Director: Scott McDougall
smcdougall@co.pacific.wa.us

CERT Program Coordinator (Volunteer): Howard Chang
(425) 559-3175
pcsovc@co.pacific.wa.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00a.m.-4:30 p.m.

South Bend Office:
300 Memorial Drive
South Bend, WA 98586
360-875-9395

Long Beach Office:
7013 Sandridge Road
Long Beach, WA 98631
360-642-9404

Mailing:
P.O. Box 27
South Bend, WA 98586

Phone: 360-875/642-9338
Fax: 360-875-9342

www.pacificcountysheriff.com/emergency-management.html

FINANCIAL RELIEF OPTIONS

- The COVID-19 pandemic is causing financial hardship and uncertainty for many. The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions has developed a list of financial resources for Washington consumers impacted by the Coronavirus. Visit <https://dfi.wa.gov/coronavirus> to learn more.
- The Washington State Department of Health also has a useful list of resources at: <https://medium.com/wadepthealth/caring-for-your-financial-health-dbb2c89a337>.
- To better understand what you can expect from the recent federal stimulus bill, the IRS has lays it all out on their website at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.
- These sites give useful information for citizens, small business owners, home owners, renters, and beyond.

www.facebook.com/PCEMA

[@PCEOCNews](https://twitter.com/PCEOCNews)

Not on Twitter? Receive the same updates via text message when the EOC is activated! Just text "follow PCEOCNews" to 40404.

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natashacrater@gmail.com
360-214-0407

