



# COVID-19 County Response

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020



CLARK  
COWLITZ  
LEWIS  
PACIFIC  
WAHAKIUM



# Clark County Elected Officials

## County Council

- John Blom
- Temple Lentz
- Gary Medvivy
- Julie Olson
- Eileen Quiring

**Assessor – Peter Van Nortwick**

**Auditor - Greg Kimsey**

**Clerk – Scott Weber**

**Medical Examiner– Martha Burt**

**Prosecuting Attorney – Tony Golik**

**Sheriff – Chuck Atkins**

**Treasurer – Alishia Topper**

## Local Public Health Officials

- Alan Melnick, *Director & Health Officer*
- Steven Krager, *Deputy Health Officer*

---

1300 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
564-397-2000





# Cowlitz County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Joe Gardner
- Arne Mortensen
- Dennis Weber

**Assessor** – Emily Wilcox

**Auditor** - Carolyn Fundingsland

**Clerk** – Staci Myklebust

**Coroner** – Tim Davidson

**Prosecuting Attorney** – Ryan Jurvakainen

**Sheriff** – Brad Thurman

**Treasurer** – Debra Gardner

## Local Public Health Officials

- Elaine Placido, *Director*
- Alan Melnick, *Health Officer*
- Steve Krager, *Deputy Health Officer*

---

207 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Kelso, WA 98626  
360-577-3020





# Lewis County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Edna Fund
- Bobby Jackson
- Gary Stamper

Assessor – Dianne Dorey

Auditor - Larry Grove

Clerk – Scott Tinney

Coroner– Warren McLeod

Prosecuting Attorney – Jonathan Meyer

Sheriff – Rob Snaza

Treasurer – Arny Davis

## Local Public Health Officials

- JP Anderson, *Director*
- Rachel Wood, *Health Officer*

---

351 NW North St  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360-740-1120





# Pacific County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Lisa Olsen
- Michael “Hawk” Runyon
- Frank Wolfe

Assessor – Bruce Walker

Auditor - Joyce Kidd

Clerk – Virginia Leach

Prosecuting Attorney/Coroner – Mark McClain

Sheriff – Rob Souvenir

Treasurer – Renee Goodin

## Local Public Health Officials

- Kate Lindstrom, *Director*
- Alan Melnick, *Health Officer*
- Steve Krager, *Deputy Health Officer*

---

300 Memorial Dr  
South Bend, WA 98586  
360-875-9337





# Wahkiakum County Elected Officials

## Board Of County Commissioners

- Mike Backman
- Daniel Cothren
- Gene Strong

Assessor – Bill Coons

Auditor - Nicci Bergseng

Clerk – Kay Holland

Prosecuting Attorney / Coroner – Dan Bigelow

Sheriff – Mark Howie

Treasurer – Tammy Peterson

## Local Public Health Officials

- Chris Bischoff, *Director*
- Alan Melnick, *Health Officer*
- Steve Krager, *Deputy Health Officer*

---

64 Main Street  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
360-795-8048





WASHINGTON  
STATE ASSOCIATION  
of **COUNTIES**

# Local Public Health Response

Alan Melnick– *Director and Health Officer*  
*Clark County Health Department*



**WSALPHO**

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

# JANUARY - MARCH



Awareness  
but limited  
preparedness



Readying public  
health response



Monitoring of  
travelers



Coordinating  
with public  
health system



# MARCH - PRESENT



Case  
Investigation



Isolation and  
Quarantine



Community  
Measures



Local Agency  
Coordination



Communication  
and Messaging

# CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD



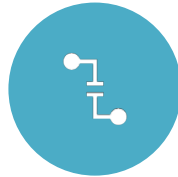
Reducing restrictions and Phase 2



Planning for second wave



Workforce



FPHS: On-going infrastructure needs

# Impact on County Functions

## How Has Responding To The Covid-19 Pandemic Affected County Functions?

- Essential needs – i.e. housing/homelessness, solid waste, broadband, transportation, food scarcity, etc.
- Public Safety
- Budget and Finances

# Anticipated Needs Moving Forward

- What are key matters needing attention at the county level in order to dial activities back up?
- What problems do you anticipate as we move into our “new normal?”
- What impacts do you foresee on your county budget, staffing, services, etc.?
- How can counties help restart the economy? What do you need in order to assist?
- What scares you right now and looking ahead?

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Pacific County** - With our first in-county positive COVID-19 cases identified this week, our EOC efforts over the past six weeks are proving productive. We have been focused on increasing testing, quarantine/isolation housing and support services, and planning for alternative care capacity within our hospitals. Over half of our completed tests have been done at county-led drive through testing events, and there was immediate need for quarantine/isolation housing and support services.



**Pacific County** - We continue to heed the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order, but economic hardship is making it more difficult and property owners want to access or rent their 2nd homes for vacation purposes. Concerns are prevalent about population movement “to the beach,” as restrictions are lifted.



**Clark County** - There needs to be more funding to help the behavioral health crisis system which is impacted more with people dealing with anxiety, depression and other issues due to social isolation requirements. Right now the behavioral health crisis system is extremely busy but is operating with the same resources as if it was business as usual.



**Pacific County** - Commerce funds for quarantine/isolation housing are insufficient if we are expected to implement a program up to the recently released standards from DOH which include medical staffing.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Cowlitz County** has closed planning and permitting offices to the public. They are offering face-to-face appointments on an as-needed basis. Online submission of applications is being encouraged and most staff are working from home



**Lewis County** had a 50% decrease in year-round shelter capacity due to spacing guidelines. The commerce funds will barely cover the next month and a half and local funds not sufficient to handle this pandemic.



**Lewis County** is allowing new planning and permitting submittals through a drop box or by electronic means. No building inspections are being conducted expect final inspections as necessary. Demand for planning and permitting services has declined significantly.



**Cowlitz County** - Has concerns about what the revenue will look like in the coming months and how that will affect the programs currently funded. Behavioral Health providers and Developmental Disability providers are struggling with how to provide service and how to stay afloat with how they have had to adjust their services due to COVID-19.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Cowlitz County** - Our shelters have individual rooms, so for the most part we are able to follow social distancing guidelines. Our DV shelter lost some capacity, so the Commerce funds are supporting them to operate at their normal capacity. Our Commerce COVID-19 funds should be able to sustain this through the duration of COVID-19 response, depending on how long that is.



**Cowlitz County (and others):** Growing concern around certain funding deadlines, particularly at the federal level. Certain Surface Transportation program dollars must be allocated by late summer, and those projects are typically going now. Delays could prove problematic to utilize these dollars, and counties could find themselves losing these valuable dollars.



**Clark County** - Lost shelter capacity due to providers having to comply with COVID-19 guidelines and many non-profits have limited their face to face interactions and public facilities have closed so people unhoused have limited places to go. The funding Clark County received to assist for providing isolation and quarantine sites for people unhoused is not enough to fund these services through September 30th.



**Clark County** solid waste has seen a significant decline in commercial collections. Any waste from care facilities is being diverted directly to compactors in order to minimize exposure risks. Currently experiencing a large influx in residential waste.

# Questions?



# THANK YOU

These slides, a copy of the webinar, and notes from this session will be shared with you as soon as possible.



 206 10th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

 360.753.1886

 [www.wsac.org](http://www.wsac.org)

 /wacounties

 @wacounties

 @wacounties