

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary Policy
to Close County Facilities to the Public in
Response to COVID-19

AMENDED ORDER NO. 31-2020

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 25-2020, declaring an emergency for Columbia County to address the spread of COVID-19 and authorizing the Board to take actions and issue orders necessary to protect the public and minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Order No. 27-2020 "In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary policy to Limit Access to County Facilities in Response to COVID-19"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon and the Federal government have declared emergencies in response to COVID-19, and the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious and novel Coronavirus, for which there is no vaccine, and the public, including Columbia County employees, are at risk for contracting the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Office of the Governor issued Executive Order No. 20-12, "Stay Home, Save Lives" which implements workspace restrictions for State Government buildings, among other requirements applicable to all persons in the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Columbia County to adhere to the policies for Government Buildings set forth in Executive Order No. 20-12; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) further recommends that staying at least six feet from one another is one of the most important ways Oregonians can protect themselves from the disease and slow its spread; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is committed to doing its part to slow the spread of COVID-19, and to minimize the risk to the health of its employees and the public they serve, by implementing Executive Order No. 20-12, as well as OHA and CDC guidance;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDERS, as follows:

1. Consistent with the restrictions on Government Buildings in Executive Order No. 20-12, and except as otherwise provided herein, all County buildings, to the maximum extent possible, shall close to the public.

2. The following additional restrictions and guidelines shall apply to the Courthouse Annex which shall remain open for Court functions only: Public access to the Courthouse shall be limited to a single point entry. Members of the public shall use the front entrance of the Courthouse Annex, unless otherwise directed.
3. Public services may be provided by telephone or on-line.
4. To the extent that closure is not feasible for any building, in person interactions between staff and the public shall be by appointment only. When public services require in-person interactions, social distancing measures must be established, implemented, and enforced to the maximum extent possible.
5. The County clerk's office will be open consistent with ORS 205.242 for e-recording only. The Clerk may accept other documents for recording by appointment only in the Clerk's discretion.
6. The Columbia County Transfer Station will remain open. The Public Works Department is authorized to establish procedures at the Transfer Station to implement social distancing measures that will minimize exposure while keeping the Transfer Station open to the public.
7. Amended Order No. 27-2020, "In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary Policy to Limit Access to County Facilities in Response to COVID-19", is hereby repealed.
8. All County departments with public-facing functions shall establish procedures for setting and managing service by phone, on-line, or by appointment, when necessary.

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9. This Order shall go be retroactive to March 24, 2020, and shall remain in effect for the duration of the County's emergency declaration (Resolution NO. 25-2020), and any extension thereof, unless sooner terminated by Board order.

DATED this 25 day of March, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Alex Tardif
Alex Tardif, Chair

Approved as to form

By: Smash
Office of County Counsel