

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary Policy)
Limiting Access to County Facilities In Response to) Order No. 84-2020
COVID-19)

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 implemented workspace restrictions for State Government buildings, among other requirements applicable to all persons in the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, in conformance with Executive Order No. 20-12, on March 25, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Order No. 31-2020, In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary Policy to Close County Facilities to the Public in Response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2020, the Office of the Governor issued Executive Order 20-25, “A Safe And Strong Oregon: Maintaining Essential Health Directives In Response To Covid-19, And Implementing A Phased Approach For Reopening Oregon’s Economy”, authorizing Columbia County businesses and residents to enter into Phase 1 re-opening consistent with the regulations set forth in the Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the need to re-open services on June 1, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Order No 42-2020 In the Matter of Adopting Temporay Policy Limiting Access to County Buildings, which included closure of the Old Courthouse to the Public; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to allow limited public access to the old Courthouse for Court;
and

WHEREAS, the need to provide public access to the Courthouse Annex will be greater during tax and election season, October 26, 2020 to November 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County is committed to doing its part to slow the spread of COVID19, and to minimize the risk to the health of its employees and the public they serve by implementing Executive Order No. 20-25, as well as OHA and CDC guidance;

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

1. All County buildings which were closed to the public shall re-open to the public for County services by appointment only. However, from October 26th, 2020 to November 16, 2020 the public shall have access to the Courthouse Annex for tax and elections business without an appointment. During this period, six feet of physical distancing shall be maintained and all other Covid-19 precautions shall be followed, including but not limited to mask requirements set out in the Oregon Health Authority's Mask Guidance dated October 19, 2020, as amended.
2. Public Access to the Courthouse Annex shall be limited to a single point of entry. Members of the public shall use the front entrance of the Courthouse Annex, unless otherwise directed.
3. Each Department is responsible for tracking its appointments, greeting its scheduled visitor in the front lobby after check-in and escorting its visitor to the meeting location.
4. Public services are encouraged to be provided by telephone or on-line, when possible.
5. When public services require in-person interactions, social distancing measures must be established, implemented, and enforced to the maximum extent possible.
6. 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, and may limit appointment hours.
7. The Columbia County Transfer Station will remain open without appointment. The Public Works Department is authorized to establish procedures at the Transfer

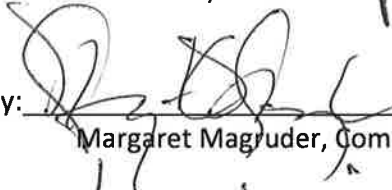
Station to implement social distancing measures that will minimize exposure while keeping the Transfer Station open to the public.

8. Order No. 42-2020, "In the Matter of Adopting a Temporary Policy to Close County Facilities to the Public in Response to COVID-19" is hereby repealed.
9. All County departments with public-facing functions shall establish procedures for setting and managing service by phone, on-line, or by appointment, when necessary.
10. This Order shall be effective upon adoption 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 21st day of October, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Alex Tardif, Chair

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: 
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel