

LEWIS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDER #082520

Whereas on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19;

Whereas State law, RCW 70.05.070(2)-(3), requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

Whereas State regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control and containment control measures, including social distancing measures he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment;

Whereas, scientific evidence and national public health guidance support strategies to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19;

Whereas, the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of Lewis County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; whereas a large surge in the number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the regional healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public;

Whereas, this Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community;

Whereas, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County by reducing the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, this Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 11, 2020 Governor's Executive Proclamation on COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies;

Whereas this Order is issued in light of the existence of 327 cases of COVID-19 in Lewis County, Washington, as of August 25, 2020, and a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission and at a time when implementation of social distancing measures is recommended;

Whereas, social distancing measures can reduce COVID-19 transmission by decreasing the frequency and duration of social contact among persons of all ages, this Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in large gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that large gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the physical environment in which large numbers of people are in close proximity and have multiple opportunities for close contact with one another that facilitates the spread of COVID-19 and; (c) the difficulty in tracing

exposure and implementing traditional public health containment measures when large numbers of people attend a single event;

Whereas, this Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from Washington State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials throughout the State of Washington, the United States and around the world. The Local Health Officer will continue to assess this quickly evolving situation and may modify this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19;

Whereas, the Local Health Officer hereby finds it is necessary to institute social distancing measures within Lewis County;

Therefore, as Local Health Officer, I ORDER as follows:

No indoor or outdoor sporting events, except as specifically outlined herein, including but not limited to individual, double, round robin, tournament, or conference games, involving participants of any age who reside outside of Lewis County shall be conducted in Lewis County until further notice. Specifically excluded from this order are the following:

1. Equestrian events as outlined in Governor Inslee's August 10, 2020 guidance for agricultural events;
2. Golf if the courses can abide by guidance promulgated by the State of Washington
3. Outdoor tennis.
4. Outdoor running events.

Signed and ordered this 25th day of August, 2020, in Chehalis, Washington, by



Rachel Wood, M.D., MPH
Lewis County Health Officer