

Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

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Washington County extends suspension of public-facing services in response to COVID-19 through May 3

Washington County will continue the suspension of all public-facing services at its libraries, service centers, and license centers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through May 3.

The County Board took its first action March 18 to protect county residents and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, declared a local emergency March 17, and directed staff to suspend the county's public-facing services.

The suspension includes the county's eight library branches, the Government Center, the county's license centers in Forest Lake and Stillwater, and the service centers in Cottage Grove, Forest Lake, and Woodbury, including the CareerForce centers, and the service counter at the North Shop. Check the county website for some of the services that remain available at county libraries and license centers.

County parks will be available for use of their trails and other open spaces, and park fees will be waived through May 5; most county parks buildings are closed. Other changes in parks operations approved April 28 are:

- county swim beaches opening at Square Lake Park, Point Douglas Park, and Big Marine Park Reserve be delayed until June 15;
- the Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve Swim Pond be closed for the 2020 season;
- rentals for parks pavilions, shelters, group campsites, and the Historic Courthouse will be cancelled through June 15; and
- county campgrounds at Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park will remain closed until May 21.

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The county will provide a full refund to anyone who has a site reserved that will now be impacted by this extended closure. Campground closures, cancellation of park rentals, and delays in beach openings could be extended based on safety parameters or operational considerations.

County government services continue to function, while adapting to working within the parameters set by the COVID-19 pandemic. Public safety agencies continue to provide service to the community, as well as the county's Department of Public Health & Environment.

The County Board granted the county administrator the authority to resume public-facing services if doing so follows recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Washington County Department of Public Health & Environment, and is consistent with the executive orders of the governor of Minnesota.

For additional information, see the county website at www.co.washington.mn.us.