

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UPDATE ON PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Kennewick, WA – On Wednesday, April 29, 2020 the Governor’s Office issued a memo related to the [Implementation of Phase 1 Construction Restart](#), which provided clarifying information and definitions on which construction projects are considered authorized to proceed under the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order.

Under this definition, *authorized construction* includes:

- Construction previously authorized under [Proclamation 20-25](#) and the [Governor’s March 25, 2020 memo](#) on construction
- Construction not previously authorized under [Proclamation 20-25](#) and the [March 25, 2020 memo](#) that was in existence on March 23, 2020.
- *In existence* means construction activity that is: a) needed to fulfill an obligation under a contract effective prior to March 23, 2020, or b) authorized by a government-issued permit obtained prior to March 23, 2020.

Project owners that do not have an issued permit will be required to sign an affidavit certifying that their project is subject to a contract meeting the definition provided by the Governor’s Office and therefore is considered an existing project before any permit will be issued.

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING OPEN

The Benton County Public Services Building, (located at 102206 E Wiser Parkway, Kennewick), which houses the Tri-Cities offices for the Building, Planning, and Public Works Departments, will have staff on-site for building permit related issues and questions for existing projects beginning Monday, May 4, 2020 at regular business hours.

At this time, the Prosser offices for these departments will remain closed until further notice.

SOCIAL DISTANCING & SAFETY ACCOMMODATIONS

Sneeze guards have been installed at the Public Services Building to protect County staff and our visitors. A hand sanitizer station is also be available for public use in the lobby.

Marks have been placed on the floor to show appropriate social distancing in the lobby and on the sidewalk outside. We ask that those waiting for service not wait between the two entrance doors and instead wait outside if there is not room in the lobby, to ensure proper and safe social distancing.

No more people will be permitted into the building’s lobby than there are room for – everyone else will be asked to wait outside and will be admitted on a “one out, one in” basis.

ENFORCEMENT OF COVID-19 JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Contractors must please note: Benton County is not the inspector or enforcer of the contractors’ required COVID-19 safety plan, and is not responsible for ensuring that contractors provide appropriate training to staff

or follow the [State's Phase 1 Construction Restart COVID-19 Jobsite Requirements](#). These safety practices are required as long as the "[Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#)" Proclamation 20-25 is in effect.

However, Benton County Inspection staff may decline to perform an inspection and/or leave the site at any time they feel the site is unsafe.

ABOUT BENTON COUNTY

Benton County is located in south-central Washington. The county seat is located in Prosser, and its largest city is Kennewick. Benton County was created on March 8, 1905 and was named after U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Benton County operates under the plural executive form of government with three commissioners and seven other elected officials. Benton County has offices located in Prosser and Kennewick. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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