



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

614 Division Street MS-37
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360.337.5698
www.kitsapgov.com/sheriff

Sheriff
Gary Simpson

March 18, 2020

COVID-19

Sheriff's Office enacts temporary changes to patrol operations and community services

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. -- The rapidly changing informational and medical environment concerning the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has compelled the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office to implement certain changes to patrol operations, reporting procedures and community services.

These increased changes are restrictive measures aimed at reducing exposure to the COVID-19 virus for sheriff's personnel as well as protecting the public whom we serve.

The changes became effective starting Tuesday, March 17, and will remain in effect until Monday, March 30. The need for reduced community services will be re-assessed at the end of March.

Changes to sheriff's office community services:

Closures:

The Kingston and Silverdale sheriff's offices will be closed temporarily for public business. Kingston office: 26076 Illinois Avenue NE, Kingston. Silverdale office: 3951 Randall Way NW, Silverdale.

We must take this course of action as adequate social distancing is not possible in the buildings' lobbies. While patrol deputies will use these two sites, the offices will be not be open to the public.

Open:

The sheriff's headquarters office on the courthouse campus, 614 Division Street, Port Orchard, will be open for business. If you are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms or have recently been exposed to someone with the coronavirus, we ask that you do not enter sheriff's office premises.

Certain restrictions have been enacted as precautionary measures:

- - Fingerprinting services for the public will be paused temporarily.
- - The processing of initial applications for a concealed pistol license (CPL) also will be temporarily stopped, as this procedure requires applicants to be fingerprinted.

CPL renewal applications will be accepted.

The conduct of other sheriff's public business will continue.

Changes to patrol operations:

9-1-1 calls: for calls received by Kitsap 911 that are considered lower priority incidents based on reporting criteria, Kitsap 911 public safety telecommunicators will ask the caller if the report can be made using online reporting methods. Low priority reports are those incidents not in progress with no suspect information. An online report may be filed here: <http://www.kitsap911.org/online-incident-report/>

Note: If the incident being reported is not listed under the Incident Type column, use "Other – Misdemeanor."

If a caller requests to have a patrol officer contact them, the 9-1-1 call will be dispatched to a patrol officer for triaging and response.

When responding to a locale where people reside or work, sheriff's patrol officers may first make contact by telephone to arrange for the reporting person to meet officers outside to facilitate social distancing (at least six feet). This will allow the responding deputies to assess the situation and take the appropriate course of action to resolve the incident.

Non-injury, non-blocking motor vehicle collisions: these may be handled by telephone to assist with exchanging information and instructions on self-reporting using the Washington State Patrol Online Motor Vehicle Collision Reporting (OMVCR) format.

OMVCR may be accessed here: <https://fortress.wa.gov/wsp/wrecre/OMVCR/>

Civil services: Sheriff's patrol officers will respond to civil standby or "keep the peace" requests only if decreed in a court order.

Changes to volunteer services:

Community services provided by the sheriff's Citizens On Patrol (COP) volunteers will be temporarily stopped. These include vacation home checks, home and business security inspections, abandoned vehicle inspections, etc.

COVID-19 developments are occurring very rapidly. The sheriff's executive staff continually assesses the sheriff's office role to respond and provide essential public safety services and determine how best to support Kitsap County residents.

Further updates will be announced as this emergency progresses. Please check Kitsap County Sheriff's Internet and social media accounts for updates:

Web site: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/sheriff/Pages/default.aspx>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kitsapcountysheriff/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KitsapCoSheriff>

#