



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 11, 2020

WHATCOM COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS CLOSING

The health and safety of our community is a shared responsibility and one that we take seriously. Yesterday, the Whatcom County Health Department made the recommendation that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay at home and away from large groups of people. People at higher risk include those:

- Over 60 years of age
- With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease or diabetes
- With weakened immune systems

The Health Department also recommended the cancelation or postponement of non-essential large public gatherings. The Whatcom County Senior Centers take these recommendations seriously, and are adapting our services and programming as follows:

Senior Centers Closing

Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale & Lynden Senior Centers are cancelling all programs and closing their facilities beginning March 12th until further notice. Sumas, Everson, Point Roberts and Welcome Senior Programs will close beginning Monday, March 16th. While we have not been instructed to close we feel it is our responsibility to protect our at-risk population by limiting interaction at this time.

Congregate Lunch Program (Senior Community Meals)

The regular congregate lunch program will close until further notice. We are committed to ensuring seniors are able to access nutritious food during this very difficult time. **Our senior centers will provide meals for pick up during regular scheduled lunch hours.** Please call your local senior center for details.

Bellingham	(360) 733-4030
Blaine	<u>(360) 332-8040</u>
Ferndale	<u>(360) 384-6244</u>
Lynden	(360) 354-2921
Sumas, Everson, Point Roberts	(360) 778-5850

***NOTE:** No meal pick-up provided at Welcome Senior Center

Meals on Wheels

There are currently no changes to the Meals on Wheels Program. Meals on Wheels program will continue regular hot and frozen meal delivery for Meals on Wheels clients as long as staffing and volunteer capacity allows. If you are age 60 or older, homebound, and in need of meals please call (360) 746-6480 or complete a request form at <https://whatcomcoa.org/request-meals/>.



Future Communication

We will use our normal channels including email, phone message, Facebook and our websites to provide update on additional program changes and the ultimate restoration of services.

We understand these changes have significant impact. Please know we make these with everyone's best interest at heart. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Websites:

Whatcom Council on Aging:

<https://whatcomcoa.org/>

Bellingham Senior Activity Center:

<https://whatcomcoa.org/bellingham-senior-activity-center/>

Blaine Senior Activity Center:

<https://blaineseniorcenter.org/>

Ferndale Senior Activity Center:

<https://www.ferndaleseniorcenter.org/>

Lynden Senior Activity Center:

<https://www.lyndencommunitycenter.org/>

Meals on Wheels & More:

<https://whatcomcoa.org/meals-on-wheels-and-more/>

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Council on Aging**

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