



## **PACIFIC COUNTY**

### **Public Health and Human Services**

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## **ORDER OF THE PACIFIC COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER**

### **CLOSURE OF RAZOR CLAM DIGGING**

**DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 19, 2020**

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment up to ninety days, or both.

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard the public and protect healthcare resources. The Pacific County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) has determined that steps to limit gathering measures are now necessary in Pacific County (“County”) in light of the increasing scope and severity of the threat that COVID-19 poses. Although not yet in Pacific County, confirmed cases of infection and increasing instances of community spread in Washington State require the limitations in this Order. Accordingly,

### **UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF RCW 70.05.070**

#### **THE HEALTH OFFICER HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until further notice, razor clam digging is prohibited in Pacific County. This is necessary to control and prevent the spread of a dangerous, contagious disease within the jurisdiction of the Pacific County Health Officer; to maintain health over the territory of this jurisdiction; and to promote the public health.
2. Although razor clam digging is not an organized public gathering, this Order is issued to prevent circumstances surrounding open public razor clam digging that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event; (d) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic and social distancing practices; and (e) the potential impact on community resources including food, pharmaceutical supplies, and healthcare resources.

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All correspondence received by Pacific County may be subject to public disclosure under Chapter 42.56 RCW

*Pacific County is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

3. This order does not include the closure of beaches. However, the Health Officer strongly cautions that persons aged 60 years and older, and persons of any age with underlying health conditions or a compromised immunity, should avoid all gatherings of any size and at any location, because these persons are at increased risk of severe illness should they contract COVID-19.

4. For the purposes of this Order, "COVID-19 risk mitigation measures" include all of the following:

- (a) The space in which a permissible gathering is held must accommodate social distancing by allowing all attendees to stand or sit at least six feet from any other attendee; and
- (b) Proper hand hygiene and sanitation material must be readily available to all persons at all times, including soap and water, tissues, and waste receptacles (if soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used)

5. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) Posted on the County Public Health Department website (<https://www.pacificcountyhealthdepartment.com>). It is requested that the Washington State Parks and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife post this Order on-site in a place viewable to the public, as well as on its website.

6. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Order.

7. The Health Officer will continue to assess this quickly evolving situation and may at any time modify, cancel, or extend this Order, or issue additional orders related to COVID-19.

PURSUANT TO RCW 70.05.070, THE HEALTH OFFICER REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND WASHINGTON STATE PARKS ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCEMENT THIS ORDER.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



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Steven Krager, MD, MPH Date: March 19, 2020  
Pacific County Deputy Health Officer