



**Port of
Whitman
County**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Port of Whitman County implements Governor's Proclamation 20-28

Proclamation temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with public

Colfax (March 30, 2020) — Per a proclamation by the governor, the Port of Whitman County will hold remote-only commission meetings and public records inspections through at least April 23.

On Tuesday, March 24, Gov. Jay Inslee signed [Proclamation 20-28](#) suspending all in-person requirements in the state's public records and open meetings laws. The measure is intended to reduce unnecessary person-to-person contact amid the spread of COVID-19. It lasts until midnight April 23 unless extended.

It temporarily prohibits public agencies, such as the Port, from holding in-person meetings.

"Waiving this requirement works to prevent the gathering of people to further curb the spread of the virus," according to a statement from the governor's office.

The proclamation also suspends agencies from taking action during a meeting unless the matters are "necessary and routine" or "necessary to respond to the outbreak and current public health emergency."

According to RCW 42.30.030, "action" means the transaction of the official business of a public agency by a governing body including but not limited to receipt of public testimony, deliberations, discussions, considerations, reviews, evaluations and final actions.

In response to the proclamation, the Port's Commission meetings will be held fully by teleconference. To call in, please dial 1 (605) 313-4415 and enter the access code 623969.

The teleconference number and access code will be posted on meeting agendas, as well as the Port's website and Facebook page prior to each meeting.

The commission meets next on Thursday, April 2, at 10 a.m.

The governor's proclamation also temporarily suspends the Public Records Act (PRA) requirements for agencies to respond to requests for public records within five business days, and to maintain business hours for public inspection and copying of records for a minimum of 30 hours per week.



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The Port will implement these provisions as follows:

1. In-person inspections of records at agency offices during the time the proclamation is in effect will not be scheduled.
2. Instead of in-person interactions, requestors should call the Port's public records officer at 509-397-3791 or send an email to publicrecords@portwhitman.com.
3. While the proclamation is in effect, the Port may not be able to provide requestors an initial response within five business days; the PRA response time period is suspended pursuant to the proclamation. However, we will continue to respond promptly and to the greatest and fullest extent possible.

Although the Port is unable to interact with members of the public in-person through April 23, staff remain available by phone and email during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Staff contact information can be found at www.portwhitman.com.

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About the Port of Whitman County

The Port of Whitman County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens of Whitman County through industrial real estate development, preservation of multi-modal transportation, facilitation of economic development and provision of on-water recreational opportunities.