

March 11, 2020

Dear members, program participants, partners and staff,

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. We take these recommendations seriously and are adapting our services and programming as follows:

Bellingham Senior Activity Center Closure

The Whatcom Council on Aging is cancelling all Bellingham Senior Activity Center programs and closing the facility beginning March 12th until further notice. 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. The Whatcom Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels and More program is committed to ensuring seniors are able to access nutritious food during this very difficult time. **Bellingham Senior Activity Center and our partner 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	360-332-8040
Everson	360-966-3144
Ferndale	360-384-5113
Lynden	360-354-4501
Sumas	360-988-2714

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 website 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.

Sincerely,

Chris

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Executive Director



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Council on Aging**

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