



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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MEMO

To: Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Installers, Planning Department Staff, Department of Environmental Quality CO Daniel Wiltse

From: Brian Crawford, REHS/RS *BC*

Date: March 20, 2020

Subject: Lincoln County On-Site Program Directive

Background:

It has been determined that the COVID-19 virus could be transmitted through raw sewage. To reduce the spread of the virus and protect yourself it is recommended that employees avoid working around sewage and/or take precautionary measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The PPE should include at a minimum: boots, gloves, eye and respiratory protection. Proper hand washing with the use of sanitizers is also highly recommended.

In addition, if you encounter a site with open sewage please contact me at the number provided below. Open sewage has always been classified a public health risk but the rise in COVID-19 illustrates the importance it is that wastewater is properly disposed.

Program Directive:

Many state and local agencies have taken precautionary measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus as will Lincoln County.

Effective immediately and until April 17th, 2020 the onsite program will conduct normal inspections as noted under the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340, Division 071 and 073, to include:

- Site evaluations
- Pre-permitting inspection of repair systems (major and minor)
- Pre-permitting inspections of system undergoing alterations (major and minor)
- Permitting of new septic systems to include all required inspections i.e. pre-permitting, construction, pump/squirt tests, pre-cover inspections, etc.
- Authorization notices
- Complaints

Effective immediately and until April 17th, 2020 the onsite program will not conduct normal inspections as noted under the OAR Chapter 340, Division 071 and 073, but will accept photographs, material lists and as-builts as authorized under OAR 340-071-0170(1)(2)(3) and (4), to include:

- Inspections of repairs (after the initial pre-permitting inspection and a permit has been issued to construct)
- Inspections of alterations (after the initial pre-permitting inspection and a permit has been issued to construct)

If you have questions, please contact me at 541-265-0221. A follow up guidance letter will be provided prior to April 17th, 2020 regarding extension of the above protective measures or the termination of the directive.