



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

30 April 2021

Schelli Slaughter, MHA  
Director

Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

**Your Water Recreation Facility Permit has been extended until 31 December 2021. No renewal fees are needed at this time.**

We know that many facilities continue to face operating restrictions and reduced revenue as the COVID-19 pandemic continues into 2021. The Thurston County Board of Health approved the extension of the expiration date of your water recreation facility permit from March 31<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

We will still be conducting inspections this year. The usual water chemistry and safety requirements are still in place and following COVID-19 guidelines is also required.

### **What do I need to do?**

**Nothing for now.** We have included your extended permit, showing the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 expiration date, with this letter.

### **I have a seasonal pool or spa. I am not sure if I will be open this summer. What do I need to do?**

There is no fee for your 2021 permit. You may open or remain closed this summer as you see fit and you do not need to notify us either way. You will still have to meet COVID-19 guidelines and the normal water quality and safety requirements. We will bill you early next year for your 2022 permit renewal.

### **I have a year-round pool or spa. Will I owe anything to renew my permit?**

Not until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Your permit fees from now to December 31<sup>st</sup> will be covered by the board's decision. We will let you know towards the end of 2021 if we will be billing for fees for January – March 2022.

### **Will the health department inspect our pool?**

Inspections will still take place, and you will need to meet COVID-19 guidelines in addition to the normal water quality and safety requirements. Our pool inspector will contact you a week or so before the inspection to arrange a time when users will not be in the pool or spa and to discuss any changes to your facility or operations.

## What are the current COVID-19 guidelines for water recreation facilities?

The Department of Health publishes guidelines for water recreation facilities. See [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance and Reopening of Water Recreation Facilities in Phases](#) and [Water Recreation Facility Occupancy Supplemental Guidance](#) for current guidelines (updated April 26 and March 22). There is a lot of detail and they are complex. Please let us know if you have questions after reading them. Please also look for updates to these guidance documents at Washington Department of Health's webpage: [Resources and Recommendations :: Washington State Department of Health](#) (under Business and Workers, Group Settings and Services).

**I still have questions.** You can contact us: [foodapplication@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:foodapplication@co.thurston.wa.us) or 360.867.2667.

### More details:

On 14 April 2021, the Thurston County Board of Health adopted Emergency Ordinance H-01-2021, which extended current water recreation facility permits until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The ordinance waives permit renewal fees for seasonal operations and covers ¾ of the fees for annual operations.

We understand that the complex and changing COVID-19 guidelines make it challenging for operators as they decide if, or how they might operate. This permit extension was approved in order to allow operators time to make those decisions. We did not want operators to have to pay renewal fees only to determine that they could not meet the guidelines to operate this summer.

At this time, it is uncertain if the remaining ¼ fees for annual permit holders will be billed at the end of the year. We will work with the Board of Health on this matter and will provide information this fall so you will know what to expect.

### **WE HAVE A NEW FAX NUMBER! 866.256.2139**

Please update your contact information. The easiest way to send us reports or other information is to email scanned documents to: [foodapplication@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:foodapplication@co.thurston.wa.us)

Scanned documents are preferred as they are much more legible. Photos tend to be out of focus or too dark to easily read.



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