



Work-Safe Plan for Environmental Health Services

5/12/2020

Environmental Health Services at Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) include on-site water, on-site sewage systems, water protection, food service safety, and other types of inspections and services to protect public health.

In accordance with Section 11 of [Executive Order 2020-77](#), BEDHD as a governmental agency is required to develop and institute a work-safe plan for essential and resumed functions. Our plan shall be interpreted to continue to apply as subsequent executive orders are released unless or until we publish a revised work-safe plan.

In order to protect the health of our staff and our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, BEDHD will implement the following:

Appointment-based Services:

Both Health Department offices will remain closed to the public for walk-in services until further notice. Services will be provided by appointment, scheduled in advance. The number of staff present at either health department building will be restricted to no more than is necessary to perform any necessary in-person work.

Remote Work:

Remote work from home will continue to the fullest extent possible until further notice. All of our phones are staffed and messages will be returned in a timely fashion.

Client Interactions:

Whenever possible, client interactions will occur remotely over the phone, internet, etc. If a client cannot connect via phone or email, an appointment will be scheduled to meet staff in the office.

Rules for Persons Entering our Offices:

All clients upon entering either building are required to

- 1) wear a face mask or covering (unless medically unable), and
- 2) be screened for COVID-19 exposures and symptoms.

Anyone who does not pass the COVID-19 screening or is not wearing a face mask or face covering (unless medically unable to wear one) will not be permitted entry into either building.

Field Work Rules

Any field work assignments will be performed under the following conditions:

- Distancing of 6 feet or more shall be maintained to the fullest extent possible.
- Staff and clients will wear a face mask or covering at any time they are within an enclosed building or outside interacting with each other.
- Staff and clients shall be screened for COVID-19 exposures and symptoms before any in-person interactions.
- Any in-home inspections shall be limited to the fullest extent possible.

Furthermore, please be aware that our staff capacity, time and resources are significantly reduced at the present as all of our field staff are engaged in daily critical Covid-19 response activities. We recognize the demand for our services will be high and beyond our capacity to schedule appointments in a timely manner. We apologize for the inconvenience and respectfully request your patience and understanding as we begin a slow return to a "new normal".

We will endeavor to schedule appointments in the order they are received, but will prioritize emergency applications for out-of-water applications and replacement sewage systems with sewage on the ground or backing up.