



March 2019

The Pulse of Rural Care

Volunteers

- Krystal Guzman, President from Island Hospital
- Ashley Waldron, Secretary from Family Care Network
- Barb Schlimmer, Treasurer from Odessa Clinic
- Cindy Robertson, Legislative Action Committee Chair (LAC) from North Shore Medical Group
- Katie Jo Raebel, CPA Honorary Board Member from Wipfli
- Lisa McKay, LAC member from North West Pediatrics
- Missy Dubuque, Member at Large from Family Care Network
- Annie Parker, Member at Large from Snoqualmie Valley Hospital

COVID-19

I'm sure your inbox has been flooded with COVID-19 information, cancellations. Many have questions about how do we stop the spread, and how will my clinic be able to remain open with these additional financial strains? We are taking this seriously and will provide any information we can. We are aware this will be a financial hardship for most RHC's in addition to strained resources. We will be meeting with the HealthCare Authority this afternoon and have listed websites below that could be of assistance.

*Per information received personally or from their website directly (RHCAW is only supplying this information as a resource; we do not have specific connections, have not researched any validity and cannot endorse any information on these company policies or websites).

1. Puget Sound Energy will NOT be disconnecting anyone's electricity at this time.
2. Comcast (Xfinity) is offering FREE internet for low income families
3. Many schools are still offering free lunches to ALL students.
4. Many school districts are beginning to coordinate delivery service for families with transportation issues.
5. Some pharmacies have offered delivery services in addition to providing refills earlier than usual and filling prescriptions for multiple months, certain restrictions do apply.

Please take care of yourself and your neighbors.

Thanks for all you do to keep our rural communities thriving.

The Washington State Department of Health has requested you work with your county's Department of Health.

Washington State DOH: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Unemployment Security Department: <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19>

CMS Emergencies page: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

U.S. Government response: <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>

Telehealth expansion information: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/president-trump-expands-telehealth-benefits-medicare-beneficiaries-during-covid-19-outbreak>

Medicare Billing and Coding Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet>

U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html>

Unfortunately, Girl Scout cookie season is over.