

Identify Essential Functions for Onsite Sewage Systems (OSS) and Large OSS (LOSS) Operation

[Governor's Proclamation 20-25](#) bans businesses from doing non-essential business. This is in effect from midnight on March 25, 2020 until midnight on April 6, 2020.

The [Appendix to Proclamation 20-25](#) labels the following workers as **Essential** under the "Emergency Services Sector" (page 3): *Workers like plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of homes.*

The failure of an onsite sewage system is a serious health threat to the residents near it. This document names essential activities that go along with responding to onsite sewage system failures, repairs, and upkeep.

Essential Tasks for OSS and LOSS

Respond to system failures:

- Do field work to confirm an OSS or LOSS failure.
- Do the repair work. You may need to:
 - Assess the soil and site.
 - Design proper OSS/LOSS repairs.
 - Carry out the repair work.
 - Inspect the repair work.

Prevent system failures with required routine operating and maintenance tasks:

- Monitor and maintain septic tanks and pump tanks.
- Monitor (include samples) sewage treatment units.
- Maintain drainfield dispersal units.
- Pump, haul, and dispose of septage and sewage.
- Fill out all required reports for the above. Do any other work that a local health agency or department of health says is necessary.

Guidance to help those with direct duties for on-site sewage systems is found

at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/WastewaterMgtGuide.pdf>

Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [DOH Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#) – updated information and resources daily
- [Local Health Jurisdictions](#)
- [Workplace and Employers](#)
- [Persons Who are at Higher Risk for Serious Illness](#)
- [Communities and Community Organizations](#)

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- [Stigma Reduction](#)
- [How Can I Be Prepared for a COVID-19 Outbreak?](#)

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