



KOOTENAI COUNTY

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Motor Vehicle License Update

July 23, 2020 – The Manager of the Coeur d'Alene Office of Kootenai County's Motor Vehicle Licensing Division reported last Friday that the first day transfer of appointments from the Post Falls office to the Coeur d'Alene office (July 16, 2020), was uneventful and took place without any problems. July 16 was the first day that the Post Falls office was temporarily closed because one employee there tested positive for COVID-19.

There were a few "no shows," but the customers whose appointments were transferred expressed to the staff of the Coeur d'Alene office their appreciation and understanding of the situation. On Thursday, a total of 98 Post Falls customer appointments were transferred to (and serviced at) the Coeur d'Alene office, along with a total of 110 existing Coeur d'Alene customer appointments. All customers were serviced on Thursday without any problems.

During the temporary closure of the Post Falls office, the Benewah County and Bonner County DMV offices also kindly agreed to help with overflow for those customers who could make the drive to these neighboring county DMV offices. While the volume of processing is lower than pre-COVID-19 conditions, the Coeur d'Alene office has sufficient capacity to service customers on an appointment-only basis.

After the CDC-recommended seven (7) day wait time, and after following the CDC recommended cleaning and disinfecting guidelines, the Post Falls office will again re-open and resume operations, by appointment only on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

The Kootenai County's Motor Vehicle Licensing Division of the Assessor's Office has been abiding by criteria set forth in Idaho Governor's Brad Little's Protocols for Staged Opening from the closures due to COVID-19. Among other things, this Protocol states that, in all stages of reopening, individuals should continue to, "*Wear face coverings in public places*".

Since the Stage 1 protocol was put in place, the Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls offices had been exercising the additional precautions as outlined in the protocols issued by Idaho Governor's Brad Little's office and the offices were providing services only by appointments made through the QLess system. To discourage congregating, and encourage the practice social distancing, customers have not been permitted into the building or waiting area unless they were being waited on. Sneeze guard barriers were installed at all service windows, the service windows were spaced out (to accomplish the six feet distancing guidelines), and other precautionary measures have been implemented.

The Kootenai County Assessor's Office wishes to remind the public that general references to the Department of Motor Vehicles (or "DMV") can be misleading. DMV can mean either: (a) the Division within the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office that administers driver's licenses on behalf of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD); or (b) it can mean the Division of the Kootenai County Assessor's Office administers motor vehicle registration and licensing on behalf of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). The recent closure of the Post Falls office that was announced in late Wednesday pertains only to Division of the Kootenai County Assessor's Office that administers motor vehicle registration and licensing as the agent of the Idaho Transportation Department.

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