

Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening – May 29, 2020

- Stay Home, Stay Healthy ends on May 31 as we move to Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening. Each county will be required to comply with the requirements of their respective Phase, with any differences approved by the Secretary of Health.
- We plan to move Washington through the phased reopening on a county-by-county basis. Each county would start June 1 in their current Phase but would be able to apply to move between the phases or add new business activity as outlined below.
- Governor Inslee will issue a new proclamation to continue the phased reopening, county-by-county approach, and business reopening requirements.
- In this new approach, counties will now have more flexibility and the ability to apply to the Secretary of Health to demonstrate they can safely allow additional economic activity based on target metrics and a holistic review of their COVID-19 activity and ability to respond.

How will the county-by-county approach work?

- Starting on June 1, any county can apply to the Secretary of Health to move to the next phase. The application process will include target metrics set by the Secretary of Health below.
- The application must be submitted by the County Executive, in accordance with the instructions provided by the Secretary of Health. If the county does not have a County Executive, it must be submitted with the approval of the County Council/Commission.
- The Secretary of Health will evaluate county application based on how their data compare to these targets and their ability to respond to situations that may arise in their county, including outbreaks, increased deaths, health system capacity and other factors. Of note, these metrics are intended to be applied as “targets,” not hard line measures. The identified actions each contribute to reducing risk of disease transmission, and are to be considered in whole. Where one target is not fully achieved, actions taken with a different target may offset the overall risk. A final decision on whether a county is ready to implement a variance program rests with the Secretary of Health.
- The secretary may approve a county moving in whole to the next phase, or may only approve certain activities in the next phase.

COVID-19 Activity	Incidence of new cases reported during prior two weeks	Target: <25 cases / 100,000 / 14 days
	Trends in hospitalizations for lab-confirmed COVID-19	Target: flat or decreasing
	Reproductive rate (if available)	Target: $Re < 1$
Healthcare system readiness	% licensed beds occupied by patients (i.e., hospital census relative to licensed beds)	Targets: Green: <80% (Yellow: 81-90%; Red: >90%)
	% licensed beds occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	Target: Green: <10% (Yellow: 11-20%; Red: >20%)
Testing	Average number of tests performed per day during the past week (or average % tests positive for COVID-19 during the past week)	Target: 50 times the number of cases (or 2%)

	Median time from symptom onset to specimen collection among cases during the past week	Target: median <2 days
Case and contact investigations	Percent of cases reached by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of positive lab test report	Target: 90%
	Percent of contacts reached by phone or in person within 48 hours of receipt of positive lab test report on a case	Target: 80%
Protecting high-risk populations	Number of outbreaks reported by week (defined as 2 or more non-household cases epidemiologically linked within 14 days in a workplace, congregate living or institutional setting)	Target: 0 for small counties (<75,000), 1 for medium counties (75,000-300,000), 2 for large counties (>300,000), 3 for very large counties (>1 million)

- A county who remains in Phase 1 would have the ability to apply for a modified Phase 1. That application would be submitted to the Secretary of Health. The Secretary of Health has discretion to modify or change any part of the modified Phase 1 to address the needs of a specific county. All activities must follow the health and safety requirements for those activities.
- The modified Phase 1 would include the following Phase 2 activities with the specific modifications to the health and safety requirements listed:
 - **Recreation and fitness**
 - Only allowed outdoor with 5 (not including the instructor) or fewer people outside of household
 - **Gatherings**
 - Only allowed outdoor of 5 or fewer people outside the household
 - **Additional construction**
 - as outlined in Phase 2 guidance
 - **Manufacturing operations**
 - as outlined in Phase 2 guidance
 - **Real estate**
 - 25% of building occupancy.
 - Indoor services limited to 30 minutes
 - **In-store Retail**
 - 15% of building occupancy.
 - Indoor services limited to 30 minutes
 - **Personal Services**
 - 25% of building occupancy.
 - **Professional services**
 - 25% of building occupancy.
 - Indoor services limited to 30 minutes for customers
 - **Photography**
 - as outlined in Phase 2 guidance
 - **Pet grooming**
 - 25% of building occupancy.
 - **Restaurants**

- No indoor dining allowing.
- Outdoor dining is permitted but seating at 50% of existing outdoor capacity.

Can counties currently in Phase 2 apply to move (in whole or in part) to Phase 3?

- Yes, counties that have been in Phase 2 for at least three weeks can apply to move (in whole or in part) to Phase 3. The application must be submitted by the County Executive. If the county does not have a County Executive, it must come with the approval of the County Council/Commission. The earliest any counties could move would be June 3. However, they will need to submit an application, including all information requested, to the Secretary of Health.

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What if it becomes necessary for a county to move to an earlier phase (e.g., move from Phase 3 to Phase 1)?

- Counties can identify when they need to return to an earlier phase by submitting a rationale and relevant data to the Secretary
- Alternatively, the Secretary has the authority to return a county to an earlier phase if the county chooses not to do so on its own, and the Secretary has identified a need to do so. The Secretary must notify a county in writing and provide a rationale for it being moved to an earlier phase.