

## **Lincoln County granted variance from Stay Home order**

### *Phase 2 activities and business services now permitted, with conditions*

LINCOLN COUNTY, WA – On Friday, Lincoln County health officials received word directly from Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, that the county was approved to move into Phase 2 of Governor Inslee’s Phase Approach to Reopening Washington Plan.

The activities and business services listed in Phase 2 are now permitted with conditions in Lincoln County and are exempt from the Stay Home-Stay Healthy Proclamation’s prohibitions. These activities and business services include:

- Recreation: Outdoor recreation involving 5 or fewer people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)
- Gatherings: Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week
- Travel: Essential travel and limited non-essential travel for Phase I & II permissible activities
- Businesses/employers:
  - Remaining manufacturing
  - Additional construction phases
  - In-home/domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.)
  - Retail (in-store purchases allowed with restrictions)
  - Real estate
  - Professional services/office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged)
  - Hair and nail salons/barbers
  - Pet grooming
  - Restaurants/taverns <50% capacity and table size no larger than 5 (no bar-area seating)

Businesses listed in Phase 2 may reopen only after they have received and implemented the state’s guidelines for their specific business sector. The guidelines can be access at <http://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>. It is unknown when the official guidelines will be released. The Lincoln County Health Department has release guidelines in anticipation of what will be required for businesses so they can be prepared to reopen quickly. Those guidelines can be found at <https://www.co.lincoln.wa.us/public-health/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>.

As part of the approval for variance, the Lincoln County Health department is required to monitor any signs of community transmission or outbreaks and report them to the Washington State Department of Health. Lincoln County must remain at Phase 2 with no incidence for at least a three week monitoring period. At that point, Secretary Wiesman must authorization a transition into Phase 3 of the Governor’s plan. If the status of COVID-19 within Lincoln County changes, Governor Inslee, Secretary Wiesman or local health officials could revoke the variance and re-impose restrictions.

Despite the move to Phase 2, the Lincoln County Health Department recommends people in high-risk populations, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to limit their participation in Phase 2 activities and business services. High-risk populations are currently defined by the CDC as:

- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, including:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma,
  - People who have serious heart conditions,
  - People who are immunocompromised,
  - People with severe obesity,
  - People with diabetes,
  - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and
  - People with liver disease