

Lincoln County granted variance to Phase 3

Phase 3 activities and business services now permitted, with conditions

LINCOLN COUNTY, WA – Lincoln County health officials received word on Friday, June 5th directly from Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, that the county was approved to move into Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Phase Approach to Reopening Washington Plan.

The activities and business services listed in Phase 3 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 group rec. sports activities (50 or fewer people)*
 - *Recreational facilities at <50% capacity (gyms, public pools, etc.)*
 - *Professional sports without audience participation (horseracing, baseball, etc.)*
- *Gatherings: Gatherings with no more than 50 people allowed*
- *Travel: Resume non-essential travel*
- *Businesses/employers:*
 - *Restaurants/taverns <75% capacity with table size no larger than 10 people*
 - *Bar areas in restaurant/taverns at <25% capacity*
 - *Movie theaters at <50% capacity*
 - *Customer-facing government services (telework remains strongly encouraged)*
 - *Libraries*
 - *Museums*
 - *All other business activities not yet listed except for nightclubs and events with greater than 50 people.*

Businesses listed in Phase 3 may reopen only after they have received and implemented the state's guidelines for their specific business sector. The guidelines can be access at www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-reopening-guidance-businesses-and-workers.

As part of the approval for variance, the Lincoln County Health department is required to continue to monitor any signs of community transmission or outbreaks and report them to the Washington State Department of Health. In the variance request, they also had to prove they had the capabilities and capacities to conduct testing, case investigation and contact tracing, and respond to outbreaks, especially with high risk populations. Additionally, they had to confirm the healthcare system in Lincoln County has the capacity and capability to respond to an identified case or outbreaks that might occur as the pandemic continues.

Lincoln County must remain at Phase 3 with no incidence for at least a three week monitoring period. At that point, Secretary Wiesman could authorization a transition into Phase 4 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 3, the Lincoln County Health Department recommends people in high-risk populations, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) limit their participation in Phase 3 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*

Lincoln County was previously approved to transition to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Washington Plan on May 8th with the latest COVID-19 case being confirmed on April 8th. That remains the most recent positive case of COVID-19 in Lincoln County with a total of 2 confirmed cases. There is currently no timeline in place to move into Phase 4 of the Governor's reopening plan.