



PACIFIC COUNTY

Emergency Operations Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific County Emergency Operations Center

COVID-19 Response

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PACIFIC COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES PHASED REOPENING PLAN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

South Bend, WA. - Pacific County Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Steven Krager, has issued an amendment to public health orders which will re-open beach approaches effective May 18, 2020, clam digging effective June 1, 2020 (with additional dates allowed May 21, 26, and 28 subject to approval by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife), and hospitality lodging utilizing a phased approach beginning June 1, 2020. Beach approaches will open May 18th with the exception of July 4th weekend, which is still under consideration. The county may adjust time frames within each phase as needed based on local health care capacity, the ability to effectively respond to any surges in cases, and/or if data shows an increase in the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community.

A summary of the order and re-opening plan:

1. Beach approaches will be open 7 days a week starting today (May 18, 2020) with the exception of July 4th weekend. Specific plans regarding beach approaches on July 4th weekend will be released soon.
2. Clam digging will be open three days in May 2020 (21, 26, and 28th) and then will be permanently open beginning June 1st. It is important to note that WDFW will still be responsible for actual clam digging dates and they or the State may still have restrictions on digging. The amended health officer order simply lifts any additional county level restrictions on clam digging.
3. Hospitality Lodging will be allowed to begin a phased re-opening approach beginning June 1, 2020(see chart for specifics). This date coincides with the date that the state should be entering phase two of the state re-entry plan, where the ban on non-essential travel also starts to lift. If Pacific County becomes eligible, and then is successful in applying for a variance to move ahead of the state phase timeline (essentially move to

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phase two early), then the dates of our local phased re-entry plan would likely be adjusted to match.

4. In order to open, hospitality lodging establishments will be required to implement safety plans that include all guidelines listed in addendum C of the order.

The phased approach to reopening is designed to limit the total number of individuals visiting the area all at once in order to limit disease spread in Pacific County. The reopening plan and attachments are included with this document but can also be viewed at www.pacificcountycovid19.com.

For more information, please contact the Direct Response line at (360) 875-9407 / (360) 642-9407 or pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us