

# PACIFIC COUNTY

## Public Health and Human Services Department

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## **PACIFIC COUNTY PREPARES VARIANCE REQUEST TO SUBMIT FOR PHASE 2 OF REOPENING**

South Bend, WA. - The Pacific County Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with the Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department have prepared a variance request that, if approved, would allow the county to move into Phase 2 of the state's phased reopening plan.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Gov. Jay Inslee announced yesterday [new criteria](#) that allows counties to apply for variances to move into Phase 2 of his four-phased [Safe Start Washington plan](#). Pacific County was one of 3 additional counties the governor identified as eligible to apply as of May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Washington State Department of Health has outlined several metrics including testing, contact tracing, and local health care provider capacity to meet increased demands due to COVID-19, required for variance approval. We have reviewed the required metrics and we believe Pacific County meets the necessary criteria.

We have completed an application including letters of support from the Pacific County Health Officer, Willapa Harbor Hospital, and Ocean Beach Hospital, for Phase 2. The application was approved by the Pacific County Board of Health this afternoon and will be submitted to the State Department of Health for review as quickly as possible.

While Pacific County is eligible to apply for a variance to move into Phase 2, the county is not yet approved for the next phase. Pacific County remains in Phase 1. Residents and businesses should continue to follow the Phase 1 [guidance](#) outlined by the governor until a determination is made on the variance request.

**For more information about COVID-19 and our Public Health response, please visit <https://www.pacificcountycovid19.com/index.html>**

Or contact the Direct Response line at (360)875-9407 (360)642-9407 or [pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:pceocOps@co.pacific.wa.us).