

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Columbia County approved by State to begin Phase 1 of reopening on Friday, May 15

(Columbia County, Oregon) - The Columbia County COVID-19 Reopening Framework Plan (Resolution 42-2020) was officially approved by the State of Oregon on Wednesday, May 13 and the county can begin Phase 1 of reopening beginning on Friday, May 15.

In Phase 1, Columbia County can begin the limited reopening of the following sectors under specific guidelines and encouraged social distancing:

- **Restaurants and bars for sit-down service:** Requirements include six feet of social distancing; a limit of groups in number to 10 or fewer; food and drink consumption must end by 10 p.m.; and workers are required to wear masks.
For more information on the reopening requirements for restaurants and bars, visit:
<https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342B.pdf>
- **Personal service providers (such as barbers, salons, and massage therapists):** Requirements include social distancing; appointment-only; and a personal protective equipment and customer list.
For more information on the reopening requirements for personal service providers, visit:
<https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342F.pdf>
- **Shopping centers and malls:** Requirements include arranging common area settings to maintain six feet of social distancing; determining maximum occupancy to maintain best social distancing practices; and posting signs to discourage groups from congregating.
For more information on the reopening requirements of shopping centers and malls, visit:
<https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342G.pdf>
- **Gyms and fitness centers:** Requirements include a maximum gathering limit; social distancing; and sanitation. Additional guidance is forthcoming from the State.
- **In-person gatherings:** Up to 25 people, travel restrictions still apply

"I want to be clear that reopening does not come without risks," Governor Kate Brown stated in her approval letter. "With every restriction lifted we know transmission of the virus has the potential to

increase. The contact tracing, testing and personal protective equipment requirements that were part of the conditions for reopening will be essential to mitigate the transmission increase."

The responsibility to adhere to these reopening guidelines will remain with the business owners. The County urges all local business owners to consider the safety of their customers and their part in the ongoing battle to keep transmission rates low. After 21 days of compliance in Phase 1, Columbia County may be allowed to move into Phase 2, which will further loosen restrictions.

Moving forward, the Board of Columbia County Commissioners has enlisted the Department of Public Health and Department of Emergency Management to continue to work through the response to COVID-19 and are actively looking towards our community's recovery from this pandemic.

"Our goal is simple," Della Graham, Resilience and Community Preparedness Coordinator said. "We want to ensure that all geographic areas of Columbia County are given a voice and the same opportunities to recover."

For more information on economic relief and resources, please call 503-397-7247 or visit <https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/departments/PublicHealth/EconomicRelief>

For more information on the State's reopening plan, visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>



May 13, 2020

KATE BROWN
Governor

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Alex Tardif, Board Chair
230 Strand St., Courthouse Room 338
St. Helens, OR 97051

Chair Tardif,

Thank you for the effort you, your hospitals and your public health experts put into your plan for meeting the prerequisites demonstrating your county's preparedness for beginning to lift restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to inform you that your county's application to enter Phase I on May 15th has been approved.

My goals for a safe and strong Oregon:

1. Minimize hospitalizations and deaths;
2. Allow people to return to work so they can support themselves and their families;
3. Minimize risk to frontline workers;
4. Avoid overwhelming the health care system;
5. Protect those at highest risk of severe illness, especially the elderly, those with underlying health conditions, and communities of color; and
6. Support social/cultural/spiritual reopening for small groups that preserve community cohesion and cultural practices.

I want to be clear that reopening does not come without risks. With every restriction lifted we know transmission of the virus has the potential to increase. The contact tracing, testing and personal protective equipment requirements that were part of the conditions for opening will be essential to mitigate that transmission increase.

The Oregon Health Authority will be monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in your county, and throughout the state, and will be ready to work with you if any concerns arise.

Thank you for all of your hard work and vigilance on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown