



UNIFIED COMMAND  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 05/27/2020

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**Walla Walla County Variance Update**  
***Reminder to Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Keep our Community Safe***

Walla Walla, WA - Walla Walla County's variance application to move to Phase 2 of the 'Safe Start' plan has been approved. In addition, County Health officials report no new cases today.

All businesses must familiarize themselves for Phase 2 guidelines (referenced and linked below). Community members are encouraged to understand the guidelines as well. The Department of Community Health (DCH) partnered with the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and the cities of Walla Walla and College Place to host 'town hall' sessions via Zoom on Phase 2 reopening guidelines for various sectors. These videos can be found on the Chamber [website](#).

**While Walla Walla County's Phase 2 variance application has been approved, however there are several conditions that our community must meet to reopen safely:**

- Business are only allowed to reopen after they can implement the state [guidelines](#). All businesses must adopt written procedures that describe actions taken to comply with physical distancing, appropriate personal protective equipment, sanitation practices, and employee health and safety guidelines. In addition, each business will be required to have a site-specific COVID-19 Supervisor to monitor the health of employees and ensure compliance with COVID-19 site safety plans. DCH has created a helpful [video](#) which explains the requirements in detail. There are local guidelines for Restaurants, Taverns, and Tasting Rooms which can be found on the DCH [website](#).
- The DCH must notify the Washington State Department of Health 24/7 on-call communicable disease duty officer at (206) 418-5500 of any COVID-19 outbreak within Walla Walla County and must do so within six (6) hours of notification.
- The DCH is required to monitor the pandemic in Walla Walla County for signs of community transmission or any concerning acceleration. If the DCH finds such condition(s), the DCH must promptly notify the Washington State Department of Health 24/7 on-call communicable disease duty officer at (206) 418-5500 and request a consult with the state's infectious disease epidemiologist or health officer.

Walla Walla County will remain in Phase 2 for at least three weeks to monitor disease transmission and activity. Once guidance is released on applying for Phase 3, the DCH will work with our Local Health Officer

**Always working for a safer, healthier and thriving Walla Walla County**



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and Board of Health on how and when to proceed to Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Phased Approach to Reopening Washington Plan.

Please also remember to wash your hands frequently, clean frequently touched surfaces, try not to touch your face, practice physical distancing, and when if you cannot maintain this distancing – wear a face covering.

Washington State Safe Start Guidance: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>  
Safe Start Walla Walla County: [https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/health\\_department/safe\\_start\\_walla\\_walla\\_county.php](https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/health_department/safe_start_walla_walla_county.php)

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