May 22nd, 2020

Phase 2 Variance application process continues to move forward, but is not yet complete;

New businesses activity not approved for this weekend as final approval by State DOH still required.

On May 21st, 2020, the Jefferson County Board of Health adopted a resolution in support of Jefferson County’s application to move to select aspects of Phase 2 of Governor Inslee’s “Safe Start” program sooner than other areas of the state harder hit or at greater risk for COVID-19 outbreaks. The resolution, which was built upon recommendations by County Public Health Officer Dr. Locke, was then moved to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval on Friday, the 22nd.

After BOCC approval, Jefferson County Public Health will then submit an application package to the State Department of Health to review, which JCPH Director Vicki Kirkpatrick expects to be able to do immediately upon BOCC approval. The application package includes information on Jefferson County’s overall capacity to adequately respond to future COVID-19 outbreaks. If submitted on Friday, it is expected the State will be able to review and approve the application sometime early next week.

Although Dr. Locke’s recommendations have been approved by both local governing bodies, this does not mean we are fully approved to move to Phase 2; the application still requires final approval from the State Department of Health, which again, will is expected to occur early next week.

Businesses not previously open as part of Phase 1 should not be expecting to reopen for the upcoming holiday weekend. Additionally, all businesses must meet State DOH guidelines for their business sector before reopening.

See the second page of the SitRep for information on the Phase 2 modifications approved by the local governing bodies, as well as resources for business with questions on reopening.
Phase 2 Modifications to be implemented after Dept. of Health approval:
Recreation: Outdoor recreation involving fewer than 5 people outside your household excluding all overnight camping.

Gatherings: Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week, masking encouraged if social distancing cannot be maintained. Visitors from high prevalence areas strongly discouraged. Graduation activities consisting with Phase 2 limitation and State guidance criteria, including use of Drive-In theater facilities, are specifically allowed.

Travel: Essential Travel and limited non-essential travel for Phase 1 and 2 are permissible activities. Out of area tourism strongly discouraged until Regional Phase 2 implementation.

Business/Employers: Manufacturing (non-essential repair, maritime industry, and others), additional construction phases, in-home domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.), professional services/office-based businesses (telework strongly encouraged), pet grooming (preexisting customers), hair and nail salons/barbers (pre-existing customers).

Phase 2 Modifications to be implemented after Clallam County Phase 2 Implementation:
Recreation: Outdoor activity involving 5 or fewer people involving overnight camping.

Phase 2 Modifications to be implemented after Regional (Clallam and Kitsap) Phase 2:
Business/Employers: Restaurants with sit down service, real estate (beyond current permitted activities), retail (in-store purchases), professional services/office-based businesses (tourism focused).

More information on Variance Application Process –

Information for business owners: Who can reopen? How to reopen safely? -

If you suspect a business if operating in violation of the governor’s orders, please fill out the form at the state’s link above after reviewing the guidance on what businesses are essential.

Other urgent questions? Call Department of Health Assistance Hotline at 1-800-525-0127; open daily from 6AM to 10PM