

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/23/2020

TO: Grant County healthcare providers, infection control staff, supervisory nursing staff, clinic management, school nurses.

Grant County Emergency Management

Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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**Grant County Moves to Phase 2
of the Washington State COVID-19 Safe Start Recovery Plan**



Phase 2

Grant County, WA – Today Grant County Health District was notified that their application was approved to move to Phase 2 of the Washington State Safe Start Recovery Plan. <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>. With Phase 2 there are many additional steps businesses will need to have in place before they are authorized to open their doors. Many local businesses have already been working on their reopening plans in anticipation of moving to the next phase.

While businesses and employers are doing their part to be prepared to welcome you back, it is important that our residents and visitors continue to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Brzezny is urging you to wear face coverings when out in public, office spaces, or where social distancing is challenging. Wearing a face covering is protecting others from you and has proven to slow the spread of COVID-19. It's a simple act of kindness and a responsibility we all should take seriously. All the sacrifices during the COVID-19 emergency has taken a toll on all of us, in order to stay in phase 2 it will take all of doing our part to protect each other.

Guidance During All Phases:

For high risk individuals, it continues to be important to limit travel outside of their home to reduce risk of exposure. High risk individuals are defined as those persons 65 years of age and older, people of all ages with pre-existing medical conditions including those with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity, diabetics, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and those with liver disease.

It is important that we all take precautions until there is an effective COVID-19 vaccine or treatment.

For Individuals:

- Use physical distancing, staying at least six feet away from others.
- When possible, wear a cloth face covering in public places.

- Stay home when sick.
- Avoid others who are sick.
- Disinfect surfaces and objects regularly.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes with unwashed hands.

For Employers:

- Use physical distancing of six feet between employees and patrons.
- Provide services while limiting close interactions between people. When this is not possible, use barriers to block sneezes and coughs when physical distancing of six feet is not possible.
- Provide ready access to handwashing facilities and hand sanitizing solutions.
- Frequently clean and disinfect, especially high touch surfaces.
- Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) and use in accordance with Labor and Industries (L&I) guidance.
- Educate employees on signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Have policies and strategies in place to address employee illness.
- Follow L&I guidelines.

Visit the Grant County Health District page for additional information on signage and guidelines.

<http://granthealth.org/resources-for-covid-19/>

Safe Start Washington Guidance Documents

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>

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