

Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)

Klickitat County approved to move to Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee's Safe Start plan

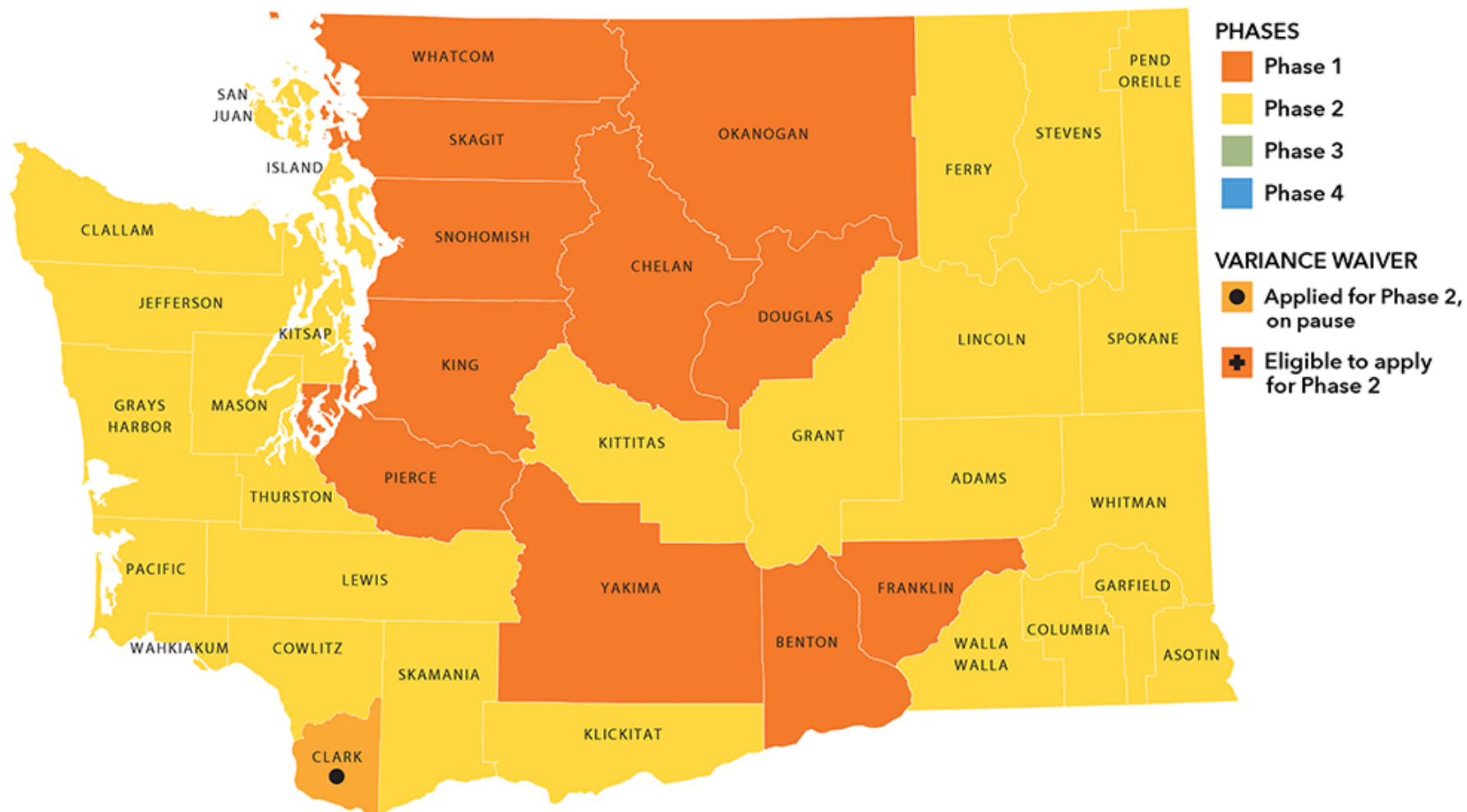
June 01, 2020

OLYMPIA -- Today Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman approved the application for Klickitat County to move into Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee's Safe Start plan.

A total of 27 counties have now been approved to move to Phase 2: Adams, Asotin, Clallam, Columbia, Cowlitz, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman.

The application from Clark County remains on pause due to an outbreak investigation.

Safe Start Washington: County Status



Businesses approved to move into Phase 2 must comply with all health and safety requirements outlined in the [guidance to reopen](#).

On May 29, Governor Jay Inslee, in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health, established a data-driven approach to reopen Washington and modify physical distancing measures while minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19. Washington will move through the phased reopening county-by-county allowing for flexibility and local control to address COVID-19 activity geographically.

This approach reduces the risk of COVID-19 to Washington's most vulnerable populations and preserves capacity in our health care system, while safely opening up businesses and resuming gatherings, travel, shopping and recreation. The plan allows counties and the secretary of health to holistically review COVID-19 activity and the ability for the county to respond when determining if a county is ready to move into a new phase.

To apply for a variance to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2, counties must submit an application to the Washington State Department of Health. The application process requires support from the local health officer, the local board of health and the county executive or county commission.

Each county must demonstrate they have adequate local hospital bed capacity as well as adequate PPE supplies to keep health care workers safe. These are some of the metrics the secretary of health will evaluate in addition to other information provided by counties:

- COVID-19 activity: The ideal target for new cases will be 25 or fewer per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period. Hospitalizations for COVID must be flat or decreasing.
- Healthcare system readiness: The available hospital beds in a given jurisdiction would preferably be at less than 80% occupancy.
- Testing: Counties need to show they have adequate testing capacity, 50 times as many people per day as they have confirmed new cases per day – which equates to positive test results under 2%. They also need to show rapid turnaround time for test results, ensuring that we can work effectively to contain the virus.
- Case and contact investigations: The goal is to contact 90% of cases by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of a positive lab test result. There is also a goal of reaching all that person's contacts within 48 hours of a positive test result.
- Protecting high-risk populations: The ideal number of outbreaks reported by week – defined as two or more non-household cases where transmission occurred at work, in congregate living, or in an institutional setting – is zero for counties under 75,000, and no higher than three for our largest counties.

- Additional information is available [in the governor's plan](#).

Requests to move into the next phase are reviewed by the secretary of health, who can approve the plans as submitted, approve with modifications or deny the application. If circumstances change within the jurisdiction, county officials or the secretary of health can move to return that county to an earlier phase.

Learn more about reopening and the statewide response to COVID-19 at coronavirus.wa.gov.

Individuals can also find COVID-19 information on the [Department of Health's website](#) or call 1-800-525-0127. Individuals can text the word "coronavirus" to 211-211 to receive information and updates on their phone wherever they are.

Governor Inslee

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