

# COVID-19

For the latest COVID-19 health guidance, statistics and resources, visit [Coronavirus.wa.gov](https://coronavirus.wa.gov).

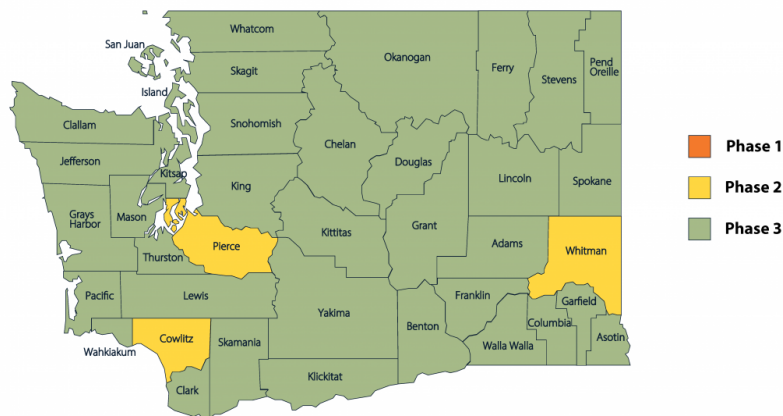
## Washington Governor - Jay Inslee

### Inslee announces three counties to rollback to Phase 2

April 12, 2021

#### Story

#### Healthy Washington County Phases as of April 16, 2021



Gov. Jay Inslee today announced the rollback of three counties not meeting the Phase 3 [Healthy Washington](#) metrics for reopening activities.

The three counties returning to Phase 2 are:

- Cowlitz County
- Pierce County
- Whitman County

“These metric trends are driven by the virus and we must continue to do everything we can to sharpen our focus and keep COVID-19 activity down. We are so close to the end of the tunnel here—we have made tremendous progress and we must

keep our focus,” Inslee said. “It’s like a football game; we have done 95 yards on a 99 yard-drive. We can’t let up now. These are not punitive actions; they are to save lives and protect public health.”

Last Friday, the governor announced [updates to the Healthy Washington criteria](#):

1. In order to move down one phase, a county must fail **both** metrics for case counts and hospitalizations. Under the previous plan, a county only needed to fail one metric to move back a phase.
2. The spectator events guidance is updated to make clear what is allowed for counties in Phase 2 and how these events are related to school graduation ceremonies. That guidance is available [here](#).
3. The Open Air Seating guidance is updated to allow flexibility for eating and drinking establishments. That guidance is available [here](#).
4. The next evaluation of counties will be in three weeks, on May 3.

On Thursday, April 15, all Washingtonians (16+) will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. Combined with sustained mask usage, physical distancing and adhering to reopening guidance, increasing vaccination rates in all counties will hopefully help in preventing a rise in COVID-19 case numbers.

Read the rest of the story on the governor's [Medium page](#).

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