



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH

www.clark.wa.gov

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May 21, 2020

Clark County Board of Health,

This week, Governor Jay Inslee announced new criteria to allow larger counties to apply for variances to move into Phase 2 of the phased approach to reopening Washington. The variance is available to counties with low incidences of COVID-19 cases – fewer than 10 cases per 100,000 county population – over the last two weeks. The governor identified Clark County as an eligible county.

The variance request requires the county to meet several metrics, including demonstrating adequate staffing for case interviews and contact notifications, adequate testing capacity and low positivity rates over the previous four weeks, staffing capacity to conduct outbreak investigations in congregate settings, and the ability to provide isolation and quarantine services for the unhoused population.

The application also requires letters from the county's two hospitals, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center and Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center. The hospitals must certify they have the capacity to accommodate a surge in suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases and adequate personal protective equipment, and they must commit to continuing to provide COVID-19 case data to the Washington State Department of Health.

I believe Clark County can meet all of the required criteria, and given the low incidence of COVID-19 in our community, I recommend Clark County request a variance to implement all Phase 2 modifications. With Board of Health approval, Clark County Public Health is prepared to compile the information necessary to submit a variance request to Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Health Officer



For other formats, contact
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