



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

“Healthy People in Thriving Communities”

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Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Jefferson County Media Release – For Immediate Distribution

Jefferson County was approved by the Governor’s Office and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to reopen on May 15, 2020 under Phase 1 of the Governor’s Re-opening Framework. Jefferson County Public Health would like to thank everyone for all the efforts shown to keep our community safe. Our communities have worked hard to keep our cases from spreading and recoveries continue to increase. This shows all the hard work and personal sacrifice has paid off. We ask everyone to stay the course and continue to keep our communities safe as we enter the first of the Reopening Phases.

Jefferson County must continue do their part as we move forward. Stay home when you are sick to keep yourselves and loved ones safe. Continue to wash your hands and use hand sanitizers, wear cloth face coverings, and check on your neighbors, friends and family. Despite anxiety and frustrations of the shutdown, our community has stayed united and together!

Jefferson County wants to express appreciation for every member of our community and their diligence in staying home and saving lives over the past few months, and for continued cooperation during reopening.

We understand the next steps will be difficult, and it will take a lot of work to continue to follow the guidelines required from the Governor’s Office to keep our community safe. We understand that everyone is ready to get back to their daily lives, but the reality is that this may not happen for quite some time. We expect to see increases in cases in our community and across the state, as the re-opening of sectors brings more people together.

Our Reality:

The virus will be here until there is immunity and an effective a vaccine.

- The primary tools are physical distancing and hygiene
- Every restriction lifted increases the chance of transmission and may increase cases

The Re-opening Plan:

If you are a business that has been approved to enter into Phase 1, please know your guidelines before you open your doors. Check here for the most up to date guidelines for businesses and community members:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

As of Friday, May 15, 2020, the following sectors are approved to re-open **(with new guidelines and physical distancing requirements)**

- Retail
- Personal Services
- Restaurants, Bars Breweries, Brewpubs, Wineries, Tasting Rooms and Distilleries
- Gyms
- In person gatherings of up to 25 people

The following sectors are still in development and should be evaluated next week

- Childcare for Essential Workers
- Summer camp, school and youth programs
- School Re-opening

Actions necessary to continue to protect our community and health care systems:

- Vulnerable populations or those at risk for severe complications must stay home. This includes the 20 % of Jefferson County’s population that is 65 and older). Limited visitations to nursing homes, long term care facilities and hospitals
- Limited gatherings of not more than 25
- Limited travel
- Increased hygiene, cleaning and sanitation
- Stay home when sick
- Telework when possible – office workers have not been approved to return to the office in Phase 1 and to continue to work from home
- Wear cloth face coverings when in public, when six feet physical distancing cannot be maintained

Guidance can be found here:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

OHA (Oregon Health Authority) has created signs for businesses to post and translations into multiple languages:

<http://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19#collapseOHAGuidance>

Next Steps:

Jefferson County will remain in Phase 1 for a minimum of 21 days, at which time there will be a full review before the potential move to Phase II. If the criteria of Phase 1 cannot continue to be met, OHA will call an immediate meeting with local public health officials for further discussion and evaluation.

For more information or general questions:

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www.Jeffeco.net/publichealth



If you have questions about **COVID-19**, call **541-699-5109**, Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 6:30pm.
To receive a daily update on the COVID-19, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/COVID19UPDATES>.

For media questions please contact:

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