
**CHELAN-DOUGLAS COVID-19
MODIFIED PHASE 2 PROPOSAL**

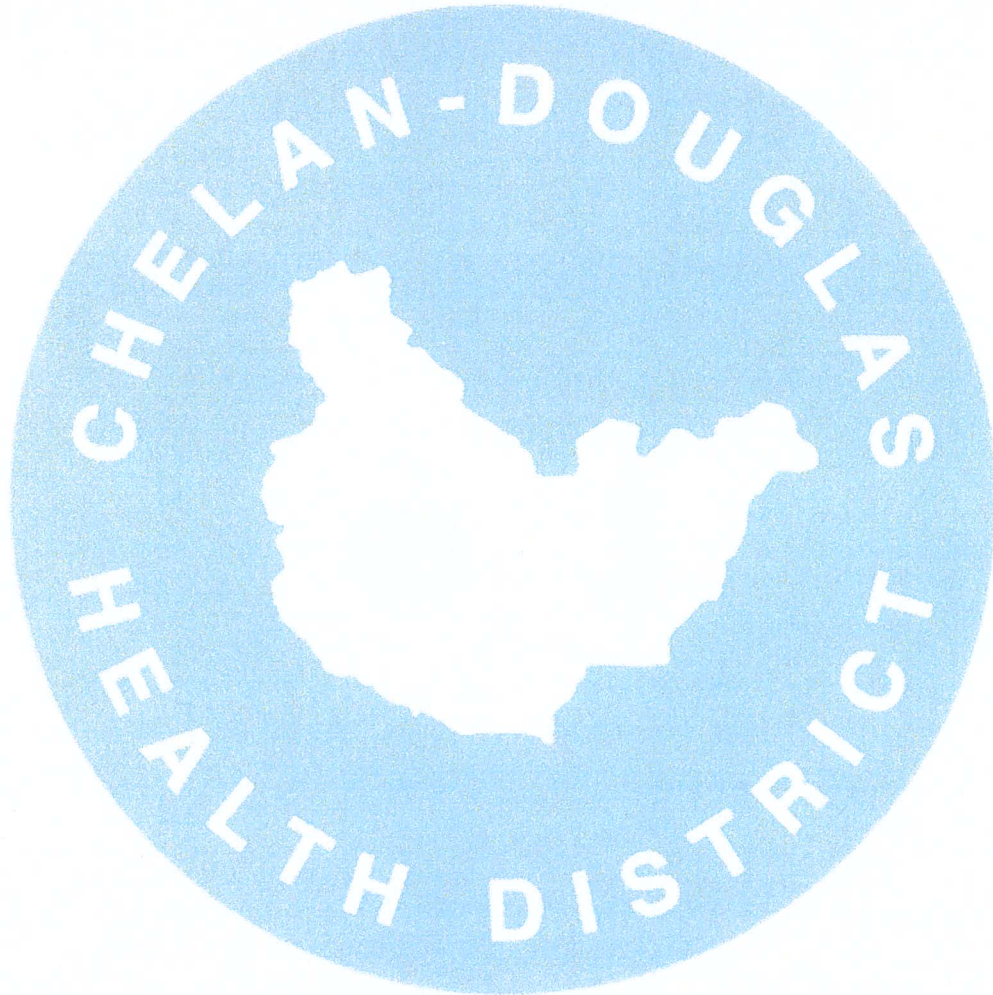


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PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Chelan-Douglas Health District

200 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Personal Health: (509) 886-6400 | FAX 886-6478

Environmental Health: (509) 886-6450 | FAX 886-6449

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor
John Wiesman, DrPH, Secretary of Health
Olympia, Washington

VIA EMAIL

Dear Governor Inslee and Secretary Wiesman:

The Chelan-Douglas Board of Health authorized me as its Chair, in a unanimous vote on May 13, 2020, to send to you the attached proposal regarding social distancing measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We characterize this as a Phase 1.5 proposal because it would implement a subset of Phase II changes, selected to better support public cooperation without producing a significant increase in the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We have developed this proposal with care and believe it expresses a continued commitment to the protection of our communities as well as the desire to move back toward a new normal without compromising those protections. We hope both of you will give it serious consideration.

We look forward to your response and to any discussions you would like to have about the measures proposed here.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill S. Thompson".

Jill Thompson, Chair
Chelan-Douglas Board of Health

C: Chelan-Douglas Board of Health
Chelan and Douglas County Boards of Commissioners
Senator Brad Hawkins
Representative Keith Goehner
Representative Mike Steele

Chelan-Douglas Health District
200 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee, WA, 98802 | (509) 886-6400 | www.cdhd.wa.gov
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Always working for a safer and healthier Community

Chelan-Douglas Health District Phase 1.5 Proposal

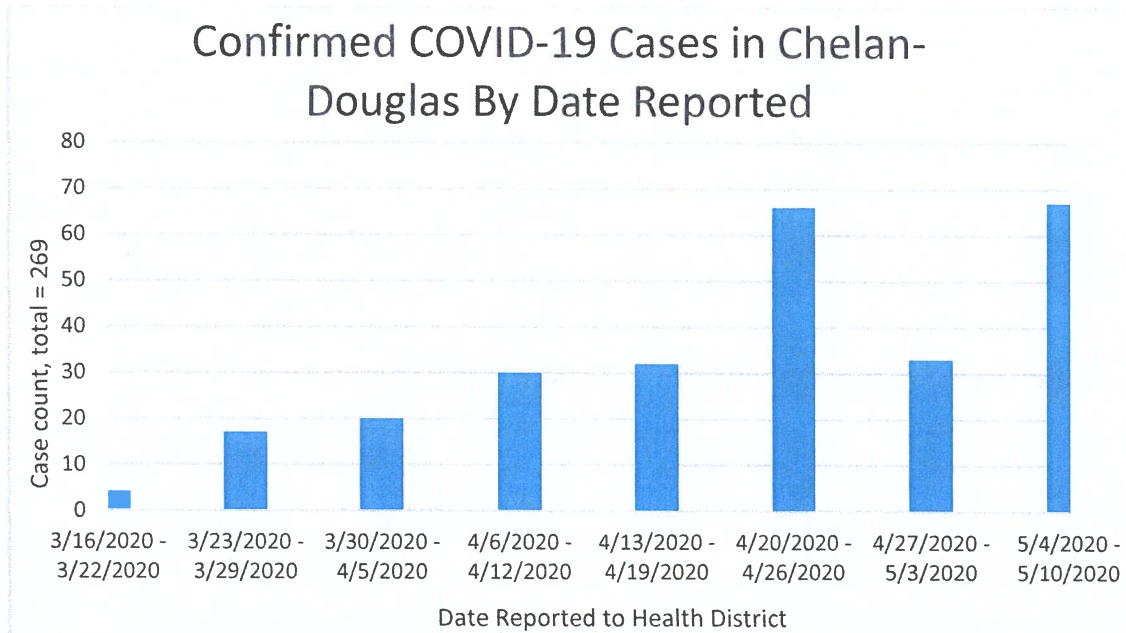
Executive Summary

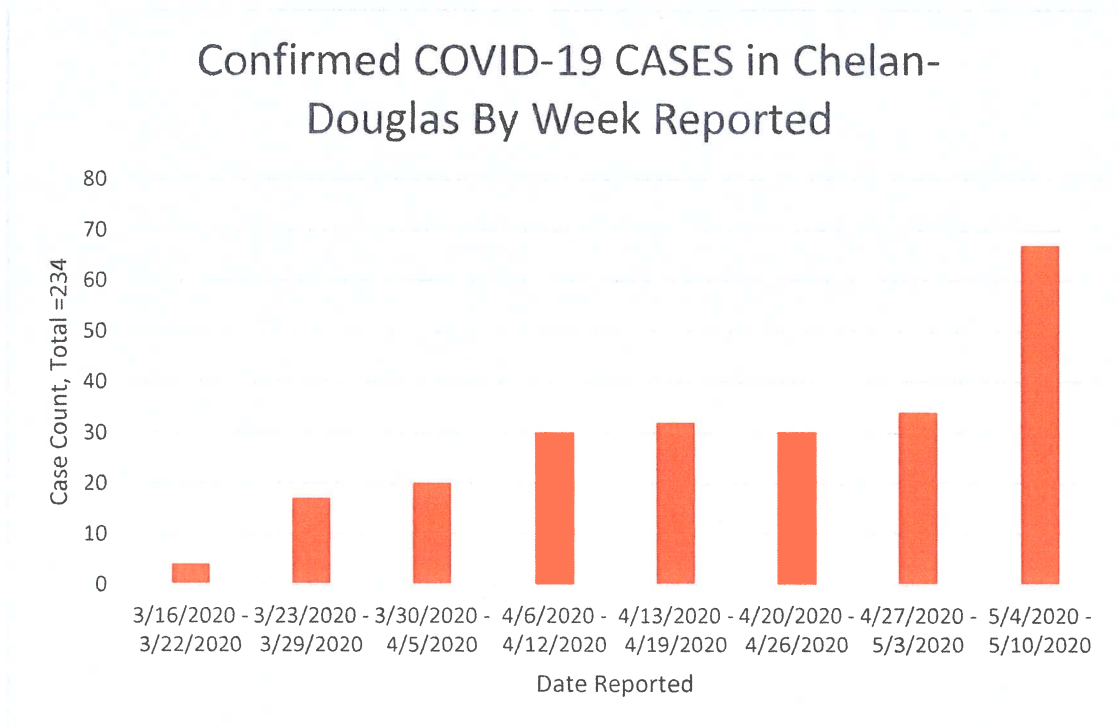
Chelan-Douglas Health District’s Board of Health respectfully submits this proposal to Governor Jay Inslee and Secretary of Health Dr. John Wiesman, requesting selected changes in current social distancing practices. We characterize this as a Phase 1.5 proposal because it would implement a subset of Phase II changes, chosen to better support public cooperation without producing a significant increase in the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

In these pages we follow the pattern of the Governor’s **Safe Start Washington** document of May 4 by summarizing COVID-19 activity in our counties, addressing each of the Readiness and Capabilities categories specified in that document, and describing the efforts of our business community to prepare for the safe implementation of our request. We then suggest specific changes in social distancing measures and attach letters of support.

COVID-19 Disease Activity

COVID19 Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths As of May 10, 2020, there have been 269 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Health District, with 117 of these among residents of Douglas County and 151 among Chelan County residents. The following charts show recent weekly COVID-19 case counts for the Health District. The first chart includes a transient spike from Douglas County in the week of April 20 due to an outbreak at one farmworker housing facility, an important development but so far apparently an exceptional one in our area. Almost all of the positive cases in this cluster were asymptomatic at the time of testing, and all have since returned to work. The second chart shows the pattern without that cluster of cases.

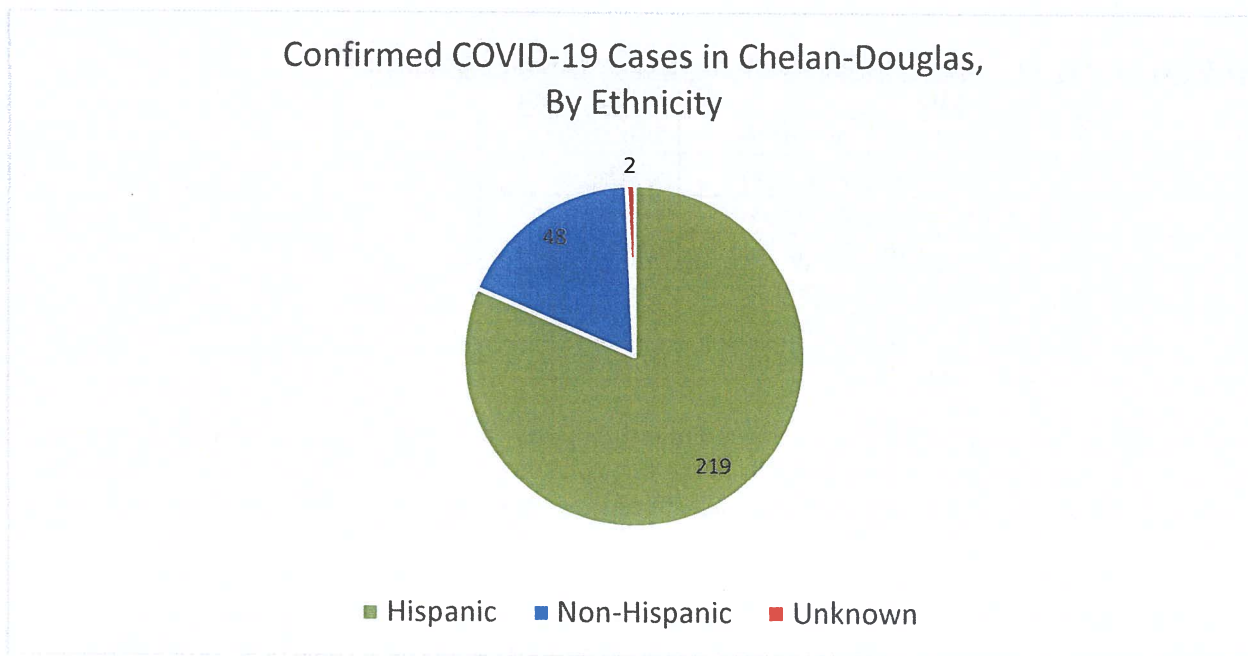




COVID-19 Tests Performed in Chelan-Douglas				
	March 2 - April 19, 2020	April 20 - April 25, 2020	April 26 - May 3, 2020	May 4 – May10, 2020
Positive Tests	139	46	45	52
Negative Tests	1,984	424	399	508
Pending Tests	105	6	72	74
Total Tests	2,228	476	516	634
% Positive	6.2%	9.7%	8.7%	8.2%

The ethnicity of residents with positive COVID-19 tests is shown in the following table:

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total Cases</u>
Hispanic	219	81%
Non-Hispanic	48	18%
Unknown	2	1%
Total	269	



Clearly the Latino community, which makes up at least a third of our population, suffers a much higher rate of known COVID-19 infection than the general population. CDHD believes this is due primarily to economic disparities, since lower income leads to more cramped housing conditions which foster COVID-19 transmission. There may also be cultural factors related to extended families living together more frequently, and to compassionate customs involving visits to the sick. CDHD has been careful in its messaging to avoid any suggestion that the Latino community is somehow the source or driver of the epidemic in our area.

Tracking the Local Epidemic We have given careful thought to the question of how we will be able to detect the true course of the local epidemic going forward. Testing availability has varied during the period shown in the charts above. The recent increase in testing supplies, however, has not yet greatly affected the number of tests being done. We believe these charts are a reasonably good indicator of the course of the epidemic in our area so far.

We have come to believe that the best way to track this disease going forward is to test a sample (using a population sample or a sentinel approach that produces a relatively stable selection of people), and then repeat the testing periodically with the same methodology in the coming months. More work is needed on this concept but we believe a workable approach can be found.

Mortality So far there have been seven deaths among residents of our counties, all with advanced age and/or significant comorbidities:

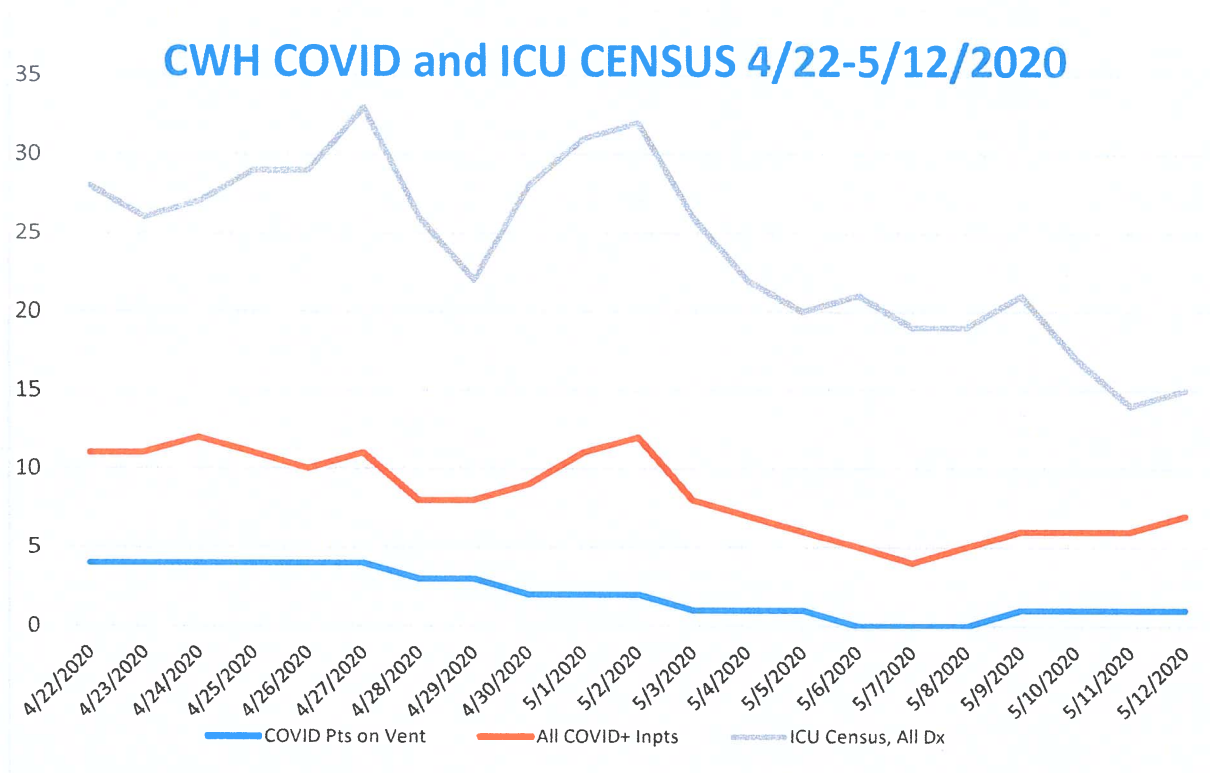
Deaths as of May 10, 2020 in Residents of Chelan and Douglas Counties

sex	age	dx date		date of death
M	91	3/23/2020	Wenatchee	3/23/2020
F	84	3/26/2020	Wenatchee	3/28/2020
M	92	3/29/2020	Wenatchee	4/8/2020
M	84	3/23/2020	Wenatchee	4/9/2020
F	93	4/6/2020	Wenatchee	4/9/2020
M	91	3/23/2002	E. Wenatchee	4/12/2020
F	68	5/3/2020	Bridgeport	4/26/20

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 treatment have diminished significantly. As of 5/12/2020 the ICU census at Central Washington Hospital (the only ICU in the two counties) for COVID-19 patients was one person who is a long term COVID patient. On the medical floor there are 6 positive COVID cases and 5 rule-out cases.

During this period ICU at Central Washington Hospital was at full capacity with 11 patients (4 with COVID) on ventilators. Further increases in ICU cases would have seriously strained the standard of care that could be provided, but fortunately we have not exceeded that number.

The following chart shows COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU census at Central Washington Hospital from April 22 to May 12. Note that not all ICU patients were there because of COVID-19:

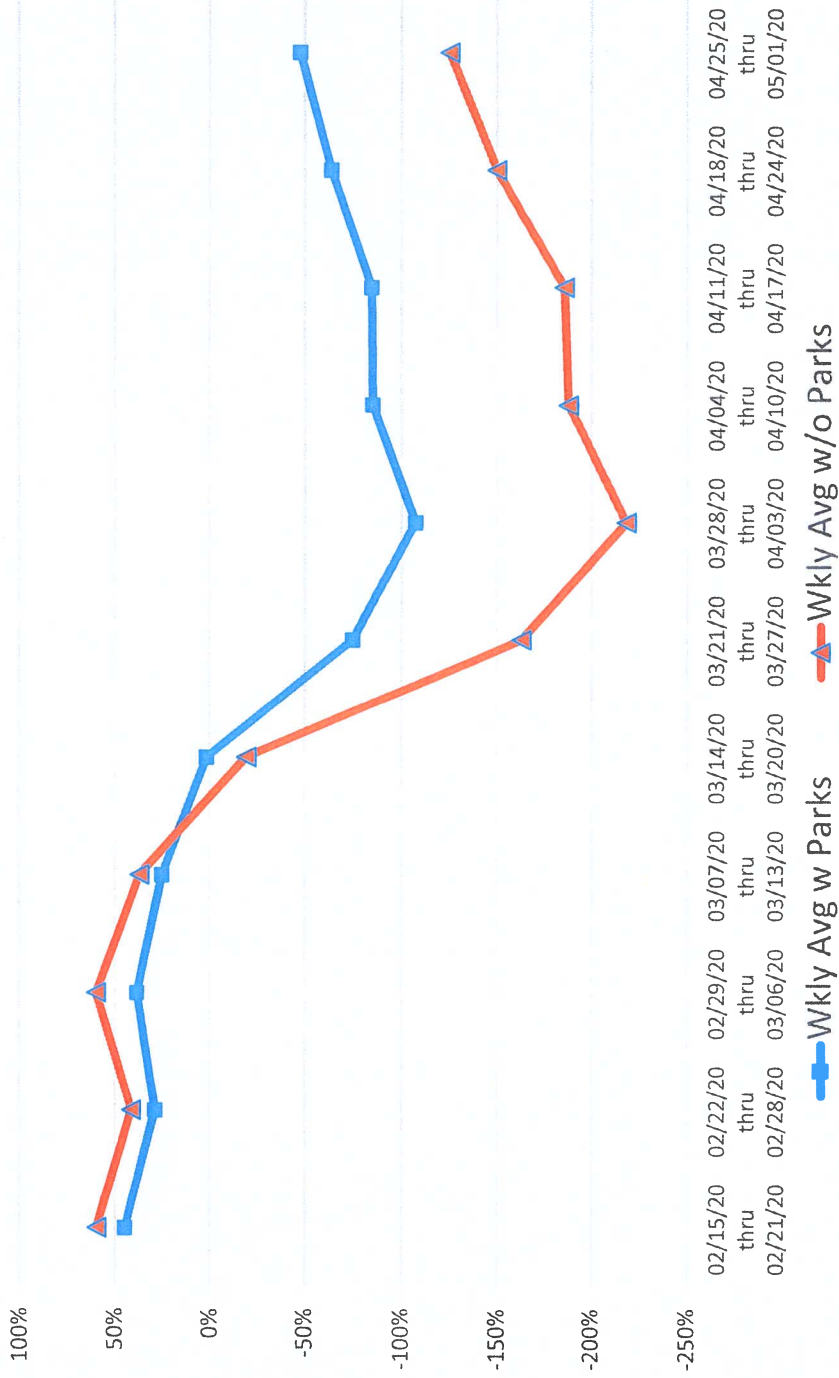


Mobility Trends WSDOT does not provide mobility data for our counties, but Google Mobility Data are available for our area. These data must be interpreted with some caution, since the residents who have activated the tracking features used by Google are not necessarily representative of the whole population (especially vulnerable seniors), and location data cannot always be taken at face value. If you park in front of a nail salon in order to enter a pharmacy in the same strip mall, Google cannot distinguish that from a manicure. But the data are a rough approximation of community mobility.

The mobility chart on the next page shows a distinct decline in mobility between mid-February and the end of March, with a significant increase in mobility since then. Mobility involving parks was not a major factor in February, which seems typical of winter, and as the spring progressed park mobility became a much greater factor, accounting for a large portion of the mobility detected. This can be seen in the gap between the lines on the chart, one showing mobility for locations other than parks and the other including the parks data with the rest. If it were not for park related mobility the data would be about 125% below baseline, but including the parks brings that up to about 50% below baseline. Mobility involving parks may not be the most worrisome form of mobility since outdoor activities are probably less likely to increase disease transmission than many other forms. But the general take-home point of the chart is that social distancing reached a peak of effectiveness around the end of March, but mobility has rebounded significantly since then. This is consistent with the observations of CDHD staff who live in the area and observe traffic and other indicators of social distancing.

Google Mobility Project Data for Chelan-Douglas Health District

Showing % Deviation from baseline (the median value for the corresponding days of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020)



Data include mobility involving retail and recreation sites, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit sites, workplaces and residences. Because parks account for a considerable portion of mobility the blue line includes parks and the other excludes them.

Readiness and Capabilities

Healthcare System Readiness As of May 12 there are 11 hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the Health District, 6 with confirmed COVID and 5 pending test results. There are 142 licensed inpatient beds, almost all of them at Confluence’s Central Washington Hospital (CWH) in Wenatchee. There are no hospitals in Douglas County. Thirty-six ventilators are available at CWH, with 18 more available at Lake Chelan Community Hospital. CWH operates the Health District’s only ICU, in which there is only 1 patient at this writing, a long term case of COVID-19. PPE supplies are much better than they were a few weeks ago, but gloves and surgical masks are in relatively short supply. At today’s burn rate there are enough of most supplies for several weeks, though the burn rate during a possible second wave would be higher and we continue to work on improved stockpiles. There is substantial surge capacity with regard to non-ICU medical beds, which have been under-utilized during the past three months. In addition, Confluence has equipped previously unused space within its facilities to accommodate a medical surge of approximately 100 additional beds, none of which were needed so far in the pandemic.

Our access to future PPE supplies will depend mainly on the State of Washington’s success in acquiring them. Local attempts to procure PPE have had very limited success. Workers and customers outside of health care and first responders are still relying mainly on home-made masks. CDHD’s strong partnership with Chelan County Emergency Management has been helpful in managing the often frustration situation regarding PPE orders from state resources.

Testing Capacity and Availability The region’s major health system, Confluence Health, and the Health District’s largest other health care provider, Columbia Valley Community Health (an FQHC) have been active in using “strike teams” to reach out into our counties to conduct testing at long term care and farmworker housing sites. Confluence has also operated a drive-up testing site in Wenatchee when test supplies permit. We believe testing will be readily available throughout the two counties, limited mainly by testing supplies and lab capacity.

Test kits have been more available in the past few weeks than previously, although we continue to receive only a small part of the orders placed. There are approximately 2000 test kits in the two counties at this writing, which would support three or four months of testing at our current inadequate rate, but of course would not support the level of testing needed for increased surveillance and active contact tracing.

The cost of tests continues to be a problem. When we test congregate settings the operator of the site is not always willing to pay for the tests, and yet there is a public health interest in doing those tests. In some cases it has fallen to the Health District or Confluence Health to pay for them if they are to be done at all. When Medicaid can be billed, the reimbursement falls far short of the cost of tests, imposing a substantial burden on public health or the organization doing the testing. State action to control the cost of testing, most especially the excessive charges by public organizations such as the University of Washington, is badly needed. The State Public Health Laboratory is an excellent resource and does not charge for tests, but we recognize it alone cannot meet the demand.

Case and Contact Investigations So far local organizations have met the need for contact tracing. One hundred percent of positive cases have been contacted within 24 hours of test results becoming available, and 95% of close contacts have been contacted within 48 hours. Chelan-Douglas Health District has had 17 trained contact tracers, 8 of whom are CDHD employees. The rest are furloughed

school nurses and other volunteers. Several are bilingual in Spanish and English, and bilingual support staff at CDHD have acted as interpreters when needed. Columbia Valley Community Health, with many bilingual staff members, has done the contact tracing for their patients who have tested positive.

We believe the state's contact tracing effort will be more sustainable and have decided to accept the State's offer to take this on for our Health District. We are just a few days away from making that switch. We will be attempting to test all close contacts (testing capacity permitting) and the state contact tracing program will provide the information we will need for that.

Protection of High-Risk Populations CDHD has been working actively with long term care facilities, operators of farmworker housing and other congregate living facilities to prevent and manage COVID-19 outbreaks. There have been some cases in assisted living facilities but so far these have not developed into the massive outbreaks seen in other areas. On three occasions CDHD and its health care partners have tested all residents and staff at long term care facilities, and have done the same at three farmworker housing sites. When a case is reported in a setting of this kind we work actively with the operator to do the necessary testing and to assure that appropriate infection control and social distancing measures are being implemented. When permitted by testing capacity it is our policy to test everyone associated with a congregate living facility – residents/patients and staff – when a single positive case occurs among them. CDHD has had an active collaboration with Aging and Adult Care of Central Washington and Confluence Health's geriatrics program to provide a series of educational conference calls on COVID-19 issues in senior facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living and adult family homes.

Requirements for All Employers

The Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce recently created a Recovery Council consisting of business leaders in the area, and chaired by the mayors of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee. The purposes and goals of the Council are described on the Chamber's web site as follows:

The purpose of the Council is to:

- Quickly engage with Governor Inslee's process on behalf of the Greater Wenatchee Area.
- Develop a regional response to Governor Inslee's Recovery Plan Elements.
- Assist in implementation of business sector plans and facilitate the removal of barriers to implement those plans in the region.

Our goals:

- Continue protecting citizens against the spread of COVID-19.
- Responsibly re-open businesses and return employees to work by transitioning away from essential and non-essential definitions to a standards-based criterion for health and safety among all employers.
- Assist local, state and federal government leaders in making informed decisions on future financial assistance.
- Develop tools for assessing regional economic impact and recovery and use regional data to inform state budget and policy decisions.

The Council is meeting regularly (remotely). The Council has agreed to partner with CDHD in providing guidance to businesses preparing to reopen and in assisting them with questions. The other two Chambers of Commerce in the Health District – from Leavenworth and the City of Chelan – are also joining the Council. We believe this will be the foundation for a very proactive and vigorous effort by the local business community to be ready for safe incremental reopening. Current Council membership is:

Mayor Jerrilea Crawford, East Wenatchee – Co-Chair
Mayor Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee – Co-Chair

Barry Kling, Administrator, Chelan Douglas Public Health District
Bob Bugert, Commissioner, Chelan County
Bob Siderius, Principle of Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward Law
Charlotte Mayo, General Manager, Springhill Suites
Chuck Zimmerman, Member, Ogden Murphy Wallace Attorneys
Dan Sutton, Commissioner, Douglas County
David Olson, CEO, Columbia Valley Community Health
Jim Richardson PhD, President, Wenatchee Valley Community College
Jim Kuntz, CEO, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority
Elvis Garcia, Owner, Seattle Yoga Lounge
Garry Arsenault, Commissioner, Chelan County PUD
Greg Mercer, Owner, LocalTel
Greg Oakes, President & CEO, Cashmere Valley Bank
Josh Stendera, SVP & Chief Credit Officer, North Cascades Bank
Linda Haglund, Executive Director, Wenatchee Downtown Association
Sean Flaherty, General Manager, Wenatchee World
Stu Freed MD, Chief Medical Officer, Confluence Health
Mike Wade, Owner, Fielding Hills Winery, Co-Owner, CMI Orchards, General Manager, Columbia Fruit Packers
Lee Pfluger, Executive Director, Building NCW

Proposed Phase 1.5 Measures

In this section we specify the Phase II items that would **be retained** and those which would **be relaxed** under our Phase 1.5 proposal. Each item is followed by a brief rationale for its retention or relaxation.

We propose that the following Phase II changes in social distancing measures be **allowed** now in Chelan-Douglas Health District:

Essential travel and limited non-essential travel only for **Phase 1 -1.5 permissible activities**.

Retail (in-store purchases allowed with appropriate social distancing and infection control procedures)

Current restrictions on retail stores are having perverse effects in our area. Because a store is allowed to sell all of its goods if any of them are essential (except for very rare cases in which nonessential goods are in isolated structures), big box stores of various kinds have remained open. Because there are few shopping alternatives, the crowds gathering at these stores have been large and persistent, well beyond the usual peak hours of these establishments. Although some stores have attempted to limit the number of people admitted at any one time, and to request those waiting for admission to maintain 6-foot distancing, these stores are now the site of the most extensive social mixing in our communities. Masks and distancing help, but many people still pass close by in aisles (even with one-way signs on the aisles), fomites are still an issue, and the efforts of store staff to control crowds are sporadic at best. Allowing other stores to open, while requiring the same measures used in “essential” establishments, will reduce the crowding at the big-box stores. It will provide economic relief for many people, improving the sustainability of our overall social distancing regime. The net result will not be a significant increase in disease transmission.

One other reason this measure would improve sustainability has to do with the inequities created by the current approach. There are numerous small businesses which provide one or two of the services available at these big box stores. For example, small pet grooming businesses cannot operate, but the pet-grooming services offered by large corporate pet department stores can continue. Anomalies of this sort undermine the public’s willingness to comply with social distancing rules. These examples have become notorious in our area and the sustainability advantages of their elimination would far exceed any excess risk involved, provided social distancing measures are observed in newly opened stores.

Businesses which rely on common public spaces, such as malls, must assure measures are taken to facilitate appropriate social distancing, and preclude congregating.

Medical, dental and behavioral health services (telehealth strongly advocated, but in-person services permitted when required to meet urgent patient needs, with appropriate social distancing and infections control measures).

Medical and dental practices are well acquainted with infection control measures. The very low numbers of local health workers testing positive for COVID-19 show that this can be done successfully. PPE supplies are improving, though not yet at the point where commercial PPE can be used for the general public. We believe these services, given availability and use of appropriate PPE, can safely be allowed now. Behavioral health problems due to social distancing and the fear created by the pandemic are increasingly apparent, and in some cases cannot be managed effectively with telehealth. We believe limited in-person behavioral health services should be permitted when the provider believes that is necessary to meet a patient's or client's urgent needs.

Hair and nail salon and barbers

With appropriate PPE and barriers these activities can be done as safely as health care.

Outdoor recreation involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, picnics, etc. all with appropriate social distancing).

There is increasing evidence that outdoor settings are less likely to result in disease transmission than most indoor settings. We believe outdoor activities contribute very substantially to the sustainability of the social distancing regime. The limitations maintained in this approach would prevent a significant increase in COVID-19 cases due to this change, and the greater sustainability social distancing produced by this measure would help limit transmission. The net impact of this change on the effectiveness of our disease control measures would be positive.

Racket sports, yoga, climbing, cycling, swimming and other forms of exercise, as long as practiced outdoors with appropriate social distancing in groups of fewer than 5 people outside the household, would be permitted.

Remaining manufacturing, with appropriate social distancing and infection control procedures, and;

Additional Construction phases

We believe these two sectors will be full participants in the business preparation efforts fostered by the Recovery Council discussed above. Social distancing and disease prevention measures already being used in some essential activities, such as infrastructure operations (dams, electrical and water utilities, etc.) and in fruit packing sheds, provide good models for these activities.

Real estate

Many of these activities have resumed already whatever the orders may say. To reduce them would be very difficult since so much of the interaction involved is private. It would take a major and highly intrusive police effort to meaningfully control this activity, and there is no sign that state or local law enforcement is equipped or willing to mount such an effort. Maintaining a paper prohibition on real estate activity will not impede disease transmission. It is not worth alienating members of the public for the

sake of a distancing measure we have no intention of enforcing effectively. Efforts to encourage social distancing in real estate activities will be better received if this unenforceable prohibition is lifted.

Pet grooming

See above regarding the inequity involved in allowing pet grooming by big box pet stores but not small pet grooming businesses. This service can readily be delivered without close human contact and its prohibition has become a notorious example in this area of unfair social distancing requirements.

We propose that the following activities, which are not allowed in Phase I but would be allowed in Phase II, would still NOT be allowed under our Phase 1.5 proposal:

Travel other than essential travel and limited non-essential travel only for the Phase II permissible activities.

It is very challenging to prevent large population movements for recreational purposes to the Leavenworth and the Lake Chelan areas of Chelan County, but we do not believe it would be wise to lift the order against unnecessary travel. We would like to explore additional ways to collaborate with state officials and agencies to reduce tourism travel of this kind until the pandemic is better controlled in our state.

Professional services/office-based businesses, with the exception for medical, dental and behavioral health services noted in the Phase 1.5 list above.

With the exception noted, these services can almost always be provided remotely.

Restaurants < 50% capacity, table size no larger than 5

It will be very difficult to maintain social distancing, even with these restrictions, since many kitchens have too little room to adequately protect staff.

Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household each week

Unlike outdoor recreation, this item would permit small indoor parties at which the 5-person limit would often be difficult to maintain and impossible to enforce. This would produce many instances of close contact which would not otherwise occur. We believe this item belongs in Phase II.

APPENDIX: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of Support

Certification of BOH approval in letter from BOH Chair
County Boards of Commissioners
Health Officer and Health Officer Emeritus
Hospitals
Medical Leaders
Chambers of Commerce
Sheriffs and Police/Fire Chiefs
Counties' EM Directors

CHELAN COUNTY

Board of Chelan County Commissioners

Chelan County Sheriff

Mayor of the City of Wenatchee

Mayor of the City of Chelan

Mayor of the City of Cashmere



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
WENATCHEE, WA 98801
PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor
John Wiesman, DrPH, Secretary of Health
Olympia, Washington

VIA EMAIL

Dear Governor Inslee and Secretary Wiesman:

Honorable Governor Inslee and Secretary Wiesman:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal regarding social distancing measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that this approach is a thoughtful, medically-based proposal to implement a subset of Phase II changes. These specific actions were selected to better support public cooperation without producing a significant increase in the risk of COVID-19 transmission. It is our intent to create a locally-developed approach, in close coordination with the Governor's Office and the Department of Health in an effort to develop reasonable, pragmatic approaches to balance health and economy of our community in a timely manner. We believe we have met that goal in this proposal.

This request is urgent; we consider these issues to be extremely time sensitive and cannot wait for protracted deliberations at a state-wide level. While we recognize the intent of the Governor's Proclamations, we clearly believe that Chelan County can exhibit responsible and appropriate leadership in this application for variance. We respectfully ask that your work with us in providing latitude and local control of both health and economic decisions.

Let us be clear: our priority is to protect public health. We believe that we can find the correct balance in protecting both our health and our economy. We applaud your intent to outline criteria for a phased approach for recovery from this pandemic, and we believe this would be best accomplished by working with local governments to ensure the guidelines are practical—and practicable.

As an extension of State Government, our position as Commissioners require getting the job done on the ground and providing for the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. We recognize the broad guidance of the Governor's "Stay Home Stay Healthy" Proclamation, but it cannot address the unique situations that occur in each community. While it is the role of local government to carry out the Governor's Proclamation in communities safely and in

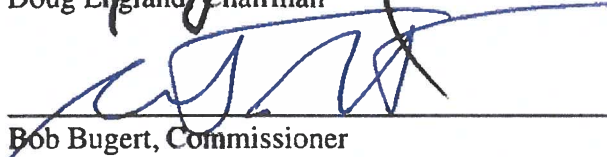
practical manner—that can only be done at the local level where specific issues and conditions can be considered.

We ask that you work with local governments, Governor Inslee. While we support the stay-at-home proclamation and the health benefits it has provided implementing the necessary on-the-ground decisions cannot be made at a practical level in Olympia. It is best done here at home.

Sincerely,



Doug England, Chairman



Bob Bugert, Commissioner



Kevin Overbay, Commissioner



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667-6860

Governor Jay Inslee

May 5, 2020

Washington State Capitol

416 14th Ave. SW

Olympia, WA 98504

Governor Inslee and Staff:

I am respectfully requesting that you support the Chelan County Commissioner's request for Chelan County to immediately move to Phase 2 of the *Washington's Phased Approach for Reopening Business and Modifying Physical Distancing Measures*.

I whole-heartedly believe that both Chelan and Douglas Counties, along with the Cities and private businesses have worked diligently and self sacrificially to do their part from the very beginning of the declared COVID-19 emergency status.

I believe it is critical for all of our citizens that we expedite the four phase plan for Chelan County in order to save personal businesses and livelihoods in North Central Washington. As Confluence Health and others health districts around our region have made massive adjustments to our regional health facilities in order to prepare for what was predicted to be a much greater impact and spread of an infectious disease, those numbers just haven't been produced in Chelan County or our region. As I write this letter, there are only 2 COVID-19 positive patients hospitalized within Confluence Hospital in Wenatchee, which is a regional facility, providing services for Chelan, Douglas, Grant and at times Okanogan and Kittitas Counties.

I believe it is imperative to our local economy and the livelihoods of our citizens that we expedite reopening our economy to include the social, financial and health impacts to our region.

I know that you will find widespread support for this request within our region, to include elected officials from the counties, cities, state representatives, private business owners (both large and small), public utility districts, medical professionals, faith based organizations and many more. I believe we the people who live, work and recreate here in North Central Washington know what is best for our region. -I am confident in the knowledge and competence of our citizens and business owners to implement an accelerated phase program to jumpstart our economy while doing it in a way that is safe for everyone involved, by safeguarding everyone's wellbeing while utilizing appropriate social distancing standards in the process.

Again, I urge you to grant this request on the date of this request to re-open our community and economy for the sake of the citizens of Chelan County and North Central Washington. I truly believe it is the right thing to do and failing to do so will prove to be much more detrimental to our local area than the health implications of COVID-19 itself.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

Jason Mathews
Undersheriff

★ **Jason Reinfeld** ★
Chief of Special Operations

Rick Johnson ★
Chief of Patrol

★ **Kim Oglesbee** ★
Chief Civil Deputy

★ **Jan Brincat** ★
Executive Assistant



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667-6860

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Burnett".

Sheriff Brian Burnett

cc:

Chelan County Commissioners

Douglas County Commissioners

Mayor Frank Kuntz

Mayor Jerilee Crawford

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

Jason Mathews
Undersheriff

★ **Jason Reinfeld**
★ Chief of Special Operations

Rick Johnson
Chief of Patrol

★ **Kim Oglesbee**
★ Chief Civil Deputy

★ **Jan Brincat**
★ Executive Assistant



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Wenatchee, WA 98807-0519
Website: www.wenatcheewa.gov

May 6, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Safe Start County Variance

Dear Governor Inslee:

First off, I would like to begin by commending you for the quick and decisive response efforts to COVID-19. The City of Wenatchee and its residents are grateful for your leadership, first responders, medical experts and those on the front line who have successfully mitigated disastrous outcomes of this pandemic.

The extension to the Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order (Order) through May 31st included the Safe Start phasing plan that systematically lifts restrictions statewide based on health data and metrics. Safe Start also provides the option for small counties with a population less than 75,000 that have not identified a resident with COVID-19 for the past three weeks to apply for a variance to this Order. Under these regulations, Chelan County does not currently qualify for the variance option.

With this letter, the City of Wenatchee joins Chelan County Commissioners in advocating for a similar variance for Chelan County. Washington State is comprised of 39 diversely impacted counties, each experiencing various levels of difficulties and each equipped with a different set of resources with which to respond. By requesting a variance locally, county-level leaders will be able to assist their communities in recovering more efficiently, saving both lives and livelihoods simultaneously.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mayor Frank J. Kuntz

Apple Capital of the World



City Hall: P.O. Box 1669
135 E. Johnson Ave.
Chelan, Washington 98816
(509) 682-4037
Fax (509) 682-8009

May 13, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P O Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

I am writing this letter in support of the Chelan County Commissioners effort to move our County to Phase 2 of your phased approach to Washington State's recovery. As you are aware, Chelan's economy is very much dependent on the tourist industry, especially this time of year. Without the yearly influx of visitors to our city, we face a bleak economic future with our local businesses running the risk of not only a significant revenue loss but the strong possibility of permanently shutting their doors.

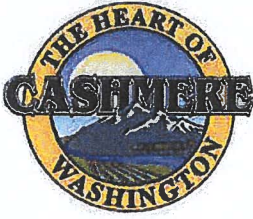
If we are not allowed to transition to Phase 2 then the above situation will most definitely occur. If it does, then there will be a long term, very detrimental effect on our local economy and our citizens.

We believe that since we have a relatively low number of COVID cases in Chelan, a low density population, and an overall healthy environment, we can transition to Phase 2 as rapidly as possible and strongly urge you to help make that happen. Any unnecessary delay that takes us into our key summer season will hurt our economy even more than this crisis already has.

Thanks for your consideration of our request and thanks for your leadership during this crisis.

Respectfully,

Robert Goedde
Mayor
City of Chelan



City of Cashmere
101 Woodring Street
Cashmere, WA 98815
Ph (509) 782-3513 Fax (509) 782-2840
Website www.cityofcashmere.org

May 12, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee,

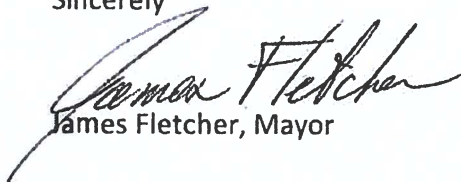
The City of Cashmere supports Chelan County Commissioners request to consider county and regional conditions for early approval of Phase Two of the four-phase plan for reopening the state after COVID-19. Moving to each subsequent phase as quickly as safety goals are achieved, will enable our community to restore our society and businesses.

COVID virus will be a threat for a long time even after a vaccine is widely available. Society needs to quickly adopt uniform safety practices to reduce or prevent virus infections yet allow life to resume. Small communities support and care about the safety of our neighbors, friends, and families.

Rural communities rely on local business for more than economic reasons. Local businesses reflect a city's identity, pride and vitality. Once those qualities are lost, a community will have a difficult time recovering. Universal health and safety protocol would enable more businesses to reopen so long as they meet the same COVID-safety rules as other businesses.

Thank you for all the difficult decisions that need to be made in responding to the pandemic. Our continued joint efforts will succeed in quickly containing the virus threats and restoring our communities.

Sincerely


James Fletcher, Mayor

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Board of Douglas County Commissioners

Douglas County Sheriff

Douglas County Auditor

Mayor of the City of East Wenatchee

Mayor of the City of Bridgeport

Mayor of the City of Rock Island

Mayor of the Town of Waterville

Douglas County Solid Waste Program

East Wenatchee Water District

DAN SUTTON
1ST DISTRICT

KYLE STEINBURG
2ND DISTRICT

MARC S. STRAUB
3RD DISTRICT

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

May 12, 2020

RE: Douglas County Request for Variance to the Governor's Phase Approach to Reopening Washington State.

Governor Jay Inslee,

Douglas County is respectfully requesting to be moved to phase 2 immediately. Due to the rural nature of our county, the wide geographical separation of our one medium sized city and five very small towns and the far less than predicted infection and hospitalization rate we request moving to phase two for our citizens.

Douglas County has been below the bell curve and has demonstrated a significant flattening of the curve for the transmission of the illness. As testing becomes readily available, it is statistically improbable to not have and increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases. The intent of the Stay Home Stay Healthy Proclamation was to flatten the curve for the spread of the virus and to prevent exhaustion of finite medical resources this has been achieved.

In partnership with Chelan County we urge you to alter the current narrative to allow us to launch a tandem effort to halt the spread of the virus while simultaneously allowing our businesses to start to re-open. We have received tentative re-open plans from several local businesses under preliminary evaluation with the Chelan-Douglas Health District. Established protocols for operation ensuring adequate personal protective equipment, and sanitation protocols will be a necessity in reestablishing business operations. We urge you to allow local health departments the autonomy to determine and evaluate the adequate implementations of these protocols.

The residence of Douglas County have expressed an outpour of support in the attempt to move the County forward in to phase 2 of the 'Start Safe Washington' plan. The impact to our constituency base has been felt financially, mentally, spiritually, and decreased the vitality of the Wenatchee Valley. As County Commissioners, our concern is to ensure the health, safety, and economic vitality of our community. In order to restore the areas of critical impacted caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must position ourselves in a manner that allows the community a fighting chance in the full pandemic recovery, not just the illness recovery.

As County Commissioners we are tasked with “treating the whole patient” we don’t have the luxury of focusing on Covid-19 as the sole source of harm and distress to the citizens of our County. The mental distress and the financial harm has already taken a toll that is only going to magnify long after the crisis is over. Our residents have never had to face such traumas in their lives, lost jobs, evictions, lost medical benefits and homelessness are a reality. Any further unwarned delay in re-opening our economy means lives will be destroyed.

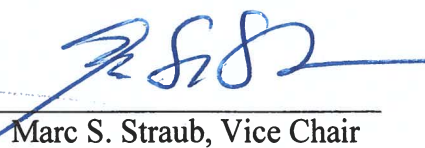
Provided the logical data driven information outlined, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners hereby request the Governor to incorporate Douglas County in the 10 counties allowed to move forward with phase 2 of the Washington’s phased reopening approach plan.

Sincerely,

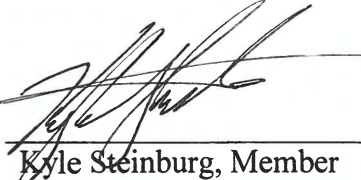
Douglas County Board of Commissioners



Dan Sutton, Chair



Marc S. Straub, Vice Chair



Kyle Steinburg, Member



DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF

DEDICATION / COMMITMENT / SERVICE

www.douglascountysheriff.org

TYLER I. CAILLE
UNDERSHERIFF

STEVE GROSECLOSE
CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

KELLY A. SOLTWISCH
CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY

KEVIN W. MORRIS
SHERIFF

Governor Inslee,

As the Sheriff of Douglas County, I would like to voice my support for the Chelan and Douglas County Commissioners' request to advance our Counties to Phase II of the Washington State reopening plan.

We believe that based on our demographics and low-risk characteristics, the Phase II guidelines are more closely aligned with the profile of our County. Douglas County is primarily rural, with limited significant population centers. These characteristics are in-line with the 10 Counties already approved to move to Phase II.

Douglas County Law Enforcement is appropriately positioned to aid in the transition to Phase II. I do not believe that this will create any adverse effects for our first responders. On the contrary, allowing Douglas County and our citizens to transition to Phase II will allow for increased ease in obtaining resources and services, especially in the many areas of our community which are particularly geographically isolated.

Thank you for your consideration as we all work together to keep our State safe.

Very Respectfully,

Sheriff Kevin W. Morris



THAD L. DUVALL
DOUGLAS COUNTY AUDITOR

Auditor's Department

Thad Duvall, Auditor
PO Box 456 | Waterville WA 98858
Office: (509) 888-6401
Email: tduvall@co.douglas.wa.us

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

May 6, 2020

RE: Need to open up the Economy

Dear Governor Inslee,

With the advent of COVID-19, this has been the most trying time since I became Auditor in 1997. As county auditor, it is my job along with my Chief Accountant to report on the financial condition of Douglas County. Sales Tax is the largest source of income for our current expense budget. Keeping the economy shut down will certainly have a devastating effect on county operating revenue. The longer our economy is shut down the deeper and long lasting negative impacts will be to revenue that local governments need to provide necessary services to the public.

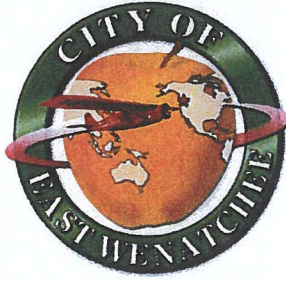
One of the main functions of local government is to provide service. Consequently, the majority of county department budgets (sometimes as high as 80 to 90 percent) are allocated to salaries of employees. These employees are dedicated to providing our constituents with excellent service.

While we don't know for sure how deep the loss of revenue will be, in order to be prepared, Douglas County departments have been asked to submit proposals addressing how we would cut 10% from each of our budgets. A 10% cut in our current expense budget is almost \$2,000,000. A cut of that magnitude in a small county like Douglas can only be done by laying off employees. Please do all you can to cause the economy to recover. Government and private business will be devastated by the huge wave of economic disaster headed our way.

Please allow local government to immediately open up every business that can demonstrate proper sanitizing techniques, social distancing and mask wearing.

Respectfully,

Thad Duvall
Douglas County Auditor



CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE

JERRILEA CRAWFORD, MAYOR

271 9TH STREET NE • EAST WENATCHEE, WA 98802

PHONE (509) 884-9515 • FAX (509) 884-6233

May 11, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

I want to express my sincerest appreciation to you for your efforts in protecting our State from the COVID 19 virus. Your "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order has helped to reduce the number of infections and flattened the curve of this virus.


I regularly attend joint conference calls with local leaders including the Chelan Douglas Health District, Confluence Health, Columbia Valley Community Health, and the area's elected officials. I also co-facilitate a Wenatchee Valley Recovery Council comprised of local business, civic, non-profit, and health care leaders. We are committed to developing policies and practices that allow business to maintain continuous operations and adapt to change based on emerging data. Through these meetings and discussions with our citizens, I believe our community is ready to take a step forward in the plan for getting back to work.

Our community has learned quickly how to maintain a safe work environment and has demonstrated they can be adaptive, responsive, and safety focused. Not only have businesses owners found creative ways to sustain their business, they have kept the safety and wellbeing of their employees and customers at the forefront of their minds, often at the sacrifice of their own livelihood.

I would like to request you consider Chelan and Douglas Counties for the next phase of your plan to reopen the State. A step forward would give us hope and start us on the path of economic stability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Jerrilea Crawford, Mayor

City of Bridgeport

May 08, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Safe start County Variance

Dear Governor Inslee:

Although your quick response and decisive efforts to COVID-19 are commendable it is putting a hardship on our small community of about 2,300 citizens. We have not had a case of the virus and because the total confirmations are very small from Douglas County we feel to put us in the same classification as King and Snohomish Counties is very unfair and is hurting our very small business community and will impact a budget that is in the very best of times struggling.

The extension to the Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order through May 31st included the Safe Start phasing plan that systematically lifts restrictions statewide based on health data and metrics. Safe Start also provides the option for small counties with a population less than 75,000 that have not identified a resident with COVID-19 for the past three weeks to apply for a variance to this Order. Under these regulations, Douglas County does not currently qualify for the variance option.

With this letter, the City of Bridgeport joins Douglas County Commissioners in advocating for a similar variance for Douglas County. Washington State is comprised of 390 diversely impacted counties, each experiencing various levels of difficulties and each equipped with a different set of resources with which to respond. By requesting a variance locally, county-level leaders will be able to assist their communities in recovering more efficiently saving both lives and livelihoods simultaneously.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,



Mayor Janet Conklin



May 08, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Safe Start County Variance

Governor Inslee:

While understanding and appreciating the difficult nature of the decision to implement your initial “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” emergency order through May 4, 2020, and the further decision to extend that order through May 31, 2020, and that your “Safe Start” phased approach to re-opening our economy will allow us to move forward with a careful and thoughtful balance of our state’s health and economic needs, and respecting that the Department of Health recognizes that some small counties with a population of less than 75,000 can apply for a variance to move to Phase II of this plan before the rest of the state, I am respectfully requesting that you support the Douglas County Commissioner’s request for Douglas County to immediately move to Phase 2 of the *Washington’s Phased Approach for Reopening Business and Modifying Physical Distancing Measures*.

I whole-heartedly believe that Douglas County, along with the Cities and private businesses within Douglas County have worked diligently to do their part from the very beginning of the declared COVID-19 emergency status.

As have most communities in our state, and nation, The City of Rock Island has shared in the social and economic burden of these difficult times. Our small city is on the brink of an economic expansion not seen since its humble beginning in 1930 when the town was founded to serve those working on the Rock Island Dam, the first dam on the Columbia River. With a population just over 1100, we have over 130 new single-family homes beginning construction this year, and discussions with developers for an additional 100 plus units in the near future, along with improving our City Water Systems and the addition of a new Water Tower to serve the City as we grow.

Getting back to work safely, as soon as possible, is imperative to the economic recovery of our community and our ability to effectively serve the people that have entrusted us to serve them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Randy Agnew, Mayor
Rock Island, WA

5 N Garden Avenue ~ P.O. Box 99 ~ Rock Island, WA 98850
(509) 884-1261 ~ Fax (509) 886-0569 ~ email: treasurer@rockislandwa.gov



Town of Waterville

P.O. Box 580 • 104 E. Locust • Waterville, WA 98858
(509) 745-8871 • (509) 745-8307 • Fax (509) 745-8782

May 13, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
201 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Safe Start for Chelan and Douglas Counties

Governor Inslee:

I have the unique position of both having resided in Bellevue and worked as an RN for over 25 years before returning to my small hometown of Waterville, where I now serve as Mayor. Because of these experiences, I have unique insight into the differences that COVID-19 has in our rural communities compared to King County and the need for different considerations.

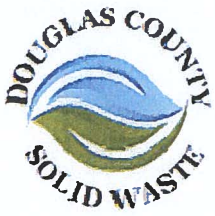
Our farming community of about 1200 residents has not yet seen a lab positive case of COVID-19. The community has risen to the occasion, setting up support networks to allow seniors and others at risk to remain at home, providing lunches and support for our students, and attending church by zoom. Volunteers have been sewing hundreds of facemasks for both our residents and for community supply. We are doing our part to reduce risk from the pandemic.

I applaud the "Stay Home" edict that was needed at the start of the pandemic. However, the provisions for essential goods and services that make sense in the more densely populated parts of the state become unintentional inequities in our rural communities. These provisions allow large stores to remain open and a source of social mingling while small retail entities are closed and undergoing economic hardship. My community businesses are small and vulnerable. My residents must leave the community to get to the large stores for goods that they need, increasing their exposure risk. Small retailers are not only able to provide the social distancing provided by large retailers, but promote safety through decrease travel and reduced co-mingling with large groups.

I hope that you consider the proposal being brought forth by the leadership in Douglas and Chelan counties. It will help in a small way to reduce the economic impact of COVID-19 on our small communities in eastern Washington.

Respectfully,

Jill D Thompson, Mayor



DOUGLAS COUNTY SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

140 19TH STREET NW, SUITE B • EAST WENATCHEE, WA 98802-4191
PHONE: (509)886-0899 • FAX: (509)884-5350
www.douglascountywa.net/departments/solid-waste

April 27, 2020

State of Washington Office of the Governor
Attn: Governor Jay Inslee
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Stay Home & Stay Safe effects on Douglas County Solid Waste

Dear Governor Inslee,

The COVID-19 stay home stay healthy proclamation has effected our Solid Waste Department in many ways. Some of the consequences of this proclamation are impacting our ability to maintain the unfunded mandates that we are required to continue. The requirement to offer recycling to our County but not being able to staff our recycling centers properly is just one of our issues. Having grant funds reallocated because of the stay at home stay healthy proclamation is causing environmental safeguards such as household hazardous waste events to be cancelled.

We are being forced to discontinue programs that protect our environment and the health and safety of our county residents. Without these vital programs; hazardous waste collection, tire collection, recycling collection and many others, our environment is at a great risk of unimaginable contamination. We have seen a huge increase in illegal dumping within our county partly due to these programs not being offered also, people are not working and are unable to pay for proper disposal. The damage to our soil, water, wildlife, public gathering places and aquatic life is something you can't put a dollar amount to. I understand that there have been some positive affects to our environment because of the lack of airborne pollution and that is terrific. However, the facts are facing us daily that there is another pollution happening that people aren't talking about, illegal dumping. Because of staffing and the proclamation, there is no one to clean-up these dump sites. The pollution from these sites seeps deeper into the ground and causes damage that we cannot prepare for.

The longer this proclamation continues and the longer we are unable to offer or fund unfunded mandates then employees are going to have to be cut to part-time or worse completely laid off. As with other businesses in our state that have had to close and/or lay employees off we are facing a crisis of unemployed individuals like we have not seen. Some of these employees will be unable to go back to their previous employers and some have no employer to go back to. Since we are a small rural county the avenues for these individuals to find new employment is going to be next to impossible.



DOUGLAS COUNTY SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

140 19TH STREET NW, SUITE B • EAST WENATCHEE, WA 98802-4191

PHONE: (509)886-0899 • FAX: (509)884-5350

www.douglascountywa.net/departments/solid-waste

The stay home and stay healthy proclamation has to be lifted not only for the economy but also for the health of our county and our environment. I implore you to open up our state again and allow our amazing Washatonians to find some comfort and stability in our new normal.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becci Piepel".

Becci Piepel, Director
Douglas County Solid Waste

CC: James Barker, County Administrator
Tiana Rowland, Clerk of the Board



COMMISSIONERS:

G. Brian Egan
Terry Barnes
Nick Warner

Vince Johnston, Manager

East Wenatchee Water District

(509) 884-3569 • Fax (509) 886-0550 • 692 Eastmont Avenue • East Wenatchee, WA 98802

May 11, 2020

RE: *Support of Phase 2 Reopening*

To whom it may concern,

The East Wenatchee Water District would like to express our support of Douglas County in requesting the Governor issue Phase 2 of his reopening plan at this time. With the recommendation of local health officials, I feel this is a vital step for the economic recovery of Douglas County, City of East Wenatchee and its residence.

Respectfully,


East Wenatchee Water District
692 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee WA. 98802
(509) 884-3569

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Owners of Chelan and Douglas Counties

Churches of Chelan and Douglas Counties



WENATCHEE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VALLEY

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40007
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, which represents public and private employers across Chelan and Douglas Counties, we urge your support for the Chelan and Douglas County Commissioners' request to immediately move to Phase 2 of the *Safe Start Washington Plan*.

The Chamber agrees with, and supports, the state's priority to protect the health and safety of our population from further spread of COVID-19. Our region has come together to achieve this common goal. Our businesses are taking unprecedented action to protect their employees and customers from COVID-19 spread, and the data on infections and hospital demand reflects these efforts. In a recent survey of the region's employers, more than two-thirds report that they have prioritized the safety and well-being of their employees over short-term business performance during this period.

Unfortunately, the current *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* order is having dramatic impacts across all employers in Chelan and Douglas Counties. The WVCC launched an extensive research effort to gain an understanding on the impacts of the current orders on local employers, and to better understand employer's view of the timelines necessary for change. The WVCC received information from over 270 employers representing a broad spectrum of industries across the region, including Latinx-owned businesses. Notably, more than 75% of businesses responding have been in business for more than 5 years, with nearly 60% of respondents with more than 10 years in business. Small businesses are the foundation of our region's economy, and the data reflects those businesses, with 75% of responses being from businesses with 1-10 full time employees.

The results are staggering. More than half of businesses (53%) believed they could sustain their businesses for less than three months, with another 28% stating they were unsure how long they could remain operational. *We are already at the mid-point of that timeline.*

We would not endorse moving to Phase 2 if the data and input from our health experts and health care providers said otherwise. Our members are working closely with our Health District and health leaders to ensure our businesses are doing everything in their controllable power to protect human health and safety. All indicators are positive.

In response to the survey data, and the impacts of the current order on local governments, the Chamber in partnership with the Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz and East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford have convened a Recovery Council to bring nonprofit, business, health care and civic leaders together with the Health District Administrator, Chief Medical Officer of Confluence Health and CEO of Columbia Valley



WENATCHEE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VALLEY

Community Health. The Council will insure we are working together with common metrics in creating a Community Plan to re-open the economy and protect against further spread of COVID-19.

Our region has a track record of working across local government boundaries, education, and employer sectors to work towards a common vision and goal. We are confident in our ability to work with your team in moving to Phase 2. Our employers are ready, our health care industry is ready, and our community is committed to not losing ground with COVID-19 infections.

We appreciate and support your phased approach in reopening our state. We look forward to working with your team, and our County Commissioners to advance our community swiftly to Phase 2.

Sincerely,



Jess R. Monnette
Chair, WVCC Advocacy Committee

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40007
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

We write this letter with tremendous respect for your office. We do not presume to know the burden of your position, especially during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and believe your decisions have not been easily or impulsively made. For that, we are very grateful for your service to our State.

We write to you as small business owners of Chelan & Douglas Counties. As small business owners, we are "main street." We are essential to the fabric and well-being of our local economies and communities. And we really love our communities. In many cases, we have cast aside more fruitful financial opportunities to stay local. In many cases, we have taken on undue or imprudent financial and personal risk, so as to continue to invest in our communities and our employees. We know faces and names. We know families and stories. We are "small town America."

The statewide shutdown has been devastating to our local economy. We know we're not alone in this. Millions across the nation are hurting. Nonetheless, our pain is real.

In response to a recent survey authored by our local Chamber of Commerce, more than 270 local businesses identified the impacts of the "Stay at Home" orders, including:

- 52% of respondents have experienced a decline in revenue of 50% or more;
- 30% of respondents have experienced a decline in revenue of 80% or more;
- 55% of respondents have or are considering employee layoffs for an undetermined amount of time;
- 53% of respondents cannot sustain operations for another 3 months; and
- 28% of respondents are unsure how long they can remain in operation.

These are very concerning. Many of our small businesses do not possess the capital or liquidity to sustain a continued shutdown of business activities. A loss of local businesses as identified in the aforementioned survey would be devastating and take years to rebuild. We do not possess the net population growth or local industry to quickly rebuild permanent business closures of this magnitude.

Our counties have not experienced a similar pace or trajectory of COVID-19 infections and deaths as those counties hardest hit in our State. Additionally, we do not possess the population levels of other, hard hit counties. We are small, rural communities. And so, we believe a case-by-case approach, in cooperation with our communities, is best and best decided at the local level.

We are a sharp-thinking, deeply caring community. We are mothers and fathers, parents and children. We are husbands and wives, grandchildren and grandparents. We are family and we are friends. We have great medical providers that faithfully serve our communities, as well as the surrounding areas. We have governing authorities with faces to their names and personally known by their citizens. Our

leaders in law enforcement are approachable and kind. And, we have some of the brightest minds in business.

Perhaps the greatest thing about our communities is you don't come here to get ahead. You come to our communities because you love the beauty, you love the people, and you love the way of life.

And so, we believe that in concert with our local governing authorities, medical professionals, law enforcement leaders, business owners, and citizens, we hold the greatest opportunity to successfully lead our communities through and beyond this pandemic. We believe that, in concert with our communities, we can develop great ideas and practices to keep people safe, while responsibly getting people back to work.

In light of this, we respectfully ask that you allow our local communities to follow your phased approach to reopen on a timeline established by our local governing authorities. We respectfully ask that the discretion given to states at this time be extended to our local communities in an effort to best respond to our very unique context. We respectfully ask you to allow our counties to take hold of this great opportunity to make decisions for, and act upon, what is best for our local communities during this Coronavirus Pandemic.

Sincerely,

Small Business Owners of Chelan & Douglas Counties

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
A Paw Above	Susan Darlington	900 Front St, Leavenworth, WA 98826
ACCOR Technology Inc	Donna Terry, VP Operations	3310 5th St SE East Wenatchee WA 98802
Actualize Sports & Fitness	Blaine Davidson	1544 N Wenatchee Ave, Ste 200, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Allstate Insurance	Heidi Huddle	235 N Mission Street, Wenatchee WA 98801
Anytime Fitness	Isaia & Sarah Wily	950 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Apple Valley Gymnastics	Emi England & Brooke Berry	230 S. Columbia St. Ste 3, Wenatchee WA 98801
Apple Valley Honda / Nelson Family Auto Group	Tod McLaughlin	400 Highline Dr., East Wenatchee WA 98802
Arlberg Sports	Scott & Nalini Paton	N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Awaken Wenatchee Church	Daniel Kellogg	2 Fifth St. Wenatchee WA 98801
Ballard Ambulance	Shawn & Scott Ballard	1028 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Barns Etc. Hard Cider Shed LLC	Gary & Paula Frederick	5080 Mission Creek, Cashmere WA 98815
Bartel Construction LLC	Jason Bartel	2690 S Methow St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Below the Surface Cleaning	Michele Stutzman	PO Box 4949, Wenatchee WA 98807
Best Western Chieftain Inn	Tae Im & Myung Im Cho	1017 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Big Rock Beer & Bottle Shop	Greg Haberman	1201 N. Miller St, Wenatchee WA 98801
Blind Renaissance	Kirk Dietrich	2303 NW Alan Ave, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Blue Lagoon Pool and Spa LLC	Andrew Vickery	225 S Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Blue Spoon Yogurt	Al & Jacqueline Stonas	1134 N Miller St, Wenatchee WA 98801
Blues Grouse Contracting LLC	Greg Griffith	PO Box 692, Peshastin, WA 98847
BML Investments LLC DBA Wenatchee Valley Shuttle	Byron & Monique Lott	400 S Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
Cascade Veterinary Clinic	Ty Johnson, DVM Andy DeMarco, DVM Ed Womac, DVM Colin Bonnett, DVM Zach Hambleton, DVM	1201 Walla Walla Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Cashmere Mailing House	Vicky Scharlau	203 Mission Ave Ste 110 Cashmere, WA 98815
Cashmere Valley Bank	Greg Oakes, CEO	117 Aplets Way, Cashmere WA 98815
Chad Shales Masonry LLC	Chad Shales	1850 Bluegrass Ave SE, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Clear View Service	Marsha Hays	3526 Sunset Hwy, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel	Freyda Stephens, General Manager, Chairperson for the Wenatchee Tourism Promotion Association Board	201 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Coldwell Banker Cascade Real Estate	Adam Rynd	Wenatchee, WA 98801
Collins Fashions	Marcy Collins	2 South Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Community Glass Company	Travis & Lisa Turner	606 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Concentrics LLC (Salon Pure)	Trudy Johnston	25 N Wenatchee Ave Ste 104, Wenatchee WA 98801
Corbaley Construction	Tim Corbaley	PO Box 104, Cashmere, WA 98815
Creative Excavation LLC	Byron & Monique Lott	824 N. Lyle Ave, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Dilly Deli	Kelsey Dew	903 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Eastmont Metropolitan Parks & Recreation	Sally Brawley, Executive Director	255 N Georgia Ave, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Elements Salon & Spa	Valda Sarty	116 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Escape Tactics LLC	Jessica Bretner & William Gant	415 King St, Wenatchee WA 98801
Fibonacci Smile	Doug Milner	1 Fifth St, Ste 100, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Firefly	Jeff Weber	21 S Chelan Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
Firehouse Pet Shop	Jennifer & Allen Larsen	17 S Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
First Choice Collision Center, Inc	Allen & Kim Tangeman	601 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Fluegge Family Dentistry	Matt Fluegge	476 Grant Rd, East Wenatchee, WA 98801
For the Love of It	Jake & Lalani Purdom	1250 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Gibbs Graphics	Rusty & Amanda Gibbs	11801 US Hwy 2, Leavenworth WA 98826
Gold Construction, Inc.	Randy Gold	PO Box 2507 Wenatchee WA 98801
Haehl Sales Inc	David Haehl	512 32nd Street NW, East Wenatchee, WA 98801
Havest Valley Pest Control	David Kaylor	636 Valley Mall Pkwy, Ste 200B, East Wenatchee 98802
Hurd's Guide Service	Stuart Hurd	2301 Pitcher Canyon Rd, Wenatchee WA 98801
Hurst Chiropractic Inc	Chad Hurst	1120 Grant Rd, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Innovative Precast LLC	Byron Lott	PO Box 1725 Wenatchee WA 98801
J5 Coffee LLC	Jesse Wilkinson	215 9th St, Leavenworth, WA 98826
Johnson Electric Northwest LLC	Shane Johnson	1012 Madison Street, Wenatchee WA 98801
JS Farms LLC	Jimmy Sherrell	3420 State Hwy 97A, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Kelley Connect	Aric Manion	226 Methow St, Wenatchee WA 98801
Key Methods	Dan Paquette	One 5th St Suite 110, Wenatchee WA 98801
KJD Properties LLC	Jeff Weber	21 S Chelan Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801
La Tortuga Loca	Ewin Fonseca	300 Stevens St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Leavenworth Custom Construction LLC	Glen Stefanko	12300 Ingalls Creek Rd, Peshastin, WA 98847
Legwork	Jeff Weber	21 S Chelan Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mela Coffee Roasting Company / Foray Coffee	Kyle Hendrickson	17 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Merrill & Week Orthodontics	Thomas Merrill & Kiersten Week	801 Eastmont Ave, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort	Josh Jorgensen	7500 Mission Ridge Road, Wenatchee WA 98802
Newberry Orchards	Jim Newberry	6575 Pioneer Dr, Cashmere, WA 98815
North Central Educational Service District 171	Michelle Price	430 Olds Station Rd, Wenatchee WA 98801
North Meridian Title & Escrow	Jim Blair	701 N Chelan Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Orchard Corset	Jeff & Leanna Kurpuis	27 S. Chelan Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Osprey Rafting	Gary Planagan	PO Box 668, Leavenworth WA 98826
Overcast Law Offices - NCW, PLLC	Thomas D. Overcast	23 S. Wenatchee Ave, Suite 320 Wenatchee WA 98801
Petro Strategic Solutions LLC	Rachael Petro	59 Avalon Terrace, Wenatchee WA 98801
Pickle Papers	Peggy Nichols	21 S. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Pinnacle Custom Builders Inc	Travis Hofstetter	25 Beacon Dr, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Polished LLC	Tamara Qualls	517 Grant Rd, East Wenatchee WA 98801
Polson Farms Joint Venture	Gary Polson	PO Box 279, Waterville, WA 98858
Postman Fisheries	Brian Green	PO Box 283, Monitor, WA 98836
Premier One Properties	Paul Mares	925 Fifth St, Wenatchee WA 98801
PrimeLending	Sharon Crockett - Production Manager	285 Technology Center Way Suite 142, Wenatchee WA 98802
Providence ATM Networks	Ron Olin	477 Edwards PL, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Pulse PRM LLC	Caleb Weber	227 Ohme Garden Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Redimedi Integrative Clinic	Karl W. Lambert, Medical Director, ARNP	230 Grant Rd Suite B-2, East Wenatchee WA 98802

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
Rental Property Owner	Emily Lemus	141 S Texas Ave, East Wenatchee WA 98801
Ridgeline Custom Builders LLC	Matt Dolan	PO Box 3572, Wenatchee, WA 98807
Riverfront Rock Gym	ThanhVan Tran, Mark Shipman MD, Flint Hartwig	1319 Walla Walla Ave, Wenatchee WA 9801
RLS Productions, LLC	Robert & Catherine Sandidge	PO Box 4280, Wenatchee WA 98807
Sage Real Estate, LLC	Brad Allen	610 N Mission Suite 206, Wenatchee WA 98801
Salcido Enterprises LLC	Malachi Salcido	615 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Sangster Motors Inc	Chad Sangster	912 N Miller St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Singleton Chiropractic, P.S.	Dr. Ron Singleton	620 N. Emerson Ste 303, Wenatchee WA 98801
Smith Excavation Inc	Gregg Smith	5930 Sunburst Ln, Ste A, Cashmere, WA 98815
Stage Kids	Michelle McCormick - Artistic Director	PO Box 1794, Wenatchee WA 98807
Superior Fruit Equipment	Jeff Martin	3557 Territorial Way, East Wenatchee WA 98802
SureStay Hotel by Best Western	Sean & Neelam Verma	720 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Sweetwood BBQ	Benj Dew	2101 Sunrise Circle Wenatchee WA 98801
Swim World	Kelli & Adam Rynd	146 E Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816
Taylor Orchards LLC	Mike Taylor	3748 State Hwy 97A, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Telos Wealth Management LLC	Sean Gross	656 N. Miller St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
The Hair Loft Salon & Spa	Tiffany Bruehl	537 Orondo Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
The Inner Circle Gym	Rachelle Johnson	525 N Piere St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
The River Academy	Eric Devries	650 Crawford Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801
The Salcido Connection Inc	Malachi Salcido	615 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

<u>Business</u>	<u>Owner/Principal</u>	<u>Address</u>
Threads - A Clothing Boutique	Beth Dew	4 S Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Tierra Village	Catherine Kilty, Executive Director	11864 Sunitsch Canyon Rd, Leavenworth WA 98826
Town Auto Group	Christine Barros, Tom Barros Jr., & Tony Lisson	500 3rd St SE, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Traction Advantage	Cheri Kuhn	225 19th Street NE #26, East Wenatchee WA 98802
Travelodge	Paul	1004 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Treasure Hunters Store	Ben Thresher	619 S Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee 98801
Triple L Investments LLC	Byron & Monique Lott	PO Box 1725 Wenatchee WA 98801
Valley Tractor & Rentals	Dale Hall	4857 Contractors Dr., East Wenatchee WA 98802
Veksel Consulting and Contracting LLC	Erik & Audri Bondo	PO Box 680 Wenatchee WA 98807
Wenatchee Valley Humane Society	Dawn Davies - Executive Director	1474 S. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Windmill Restaurant	Kevin Smith	1501 north Wenatchee ave, Wenatchee WA 98801
Ye Olde Bookshoppe	AnaMaree Ordway	11 Palouse St, Wenatchee WA 98801

Monday, May 13th, 2020

To: Governor Jay Inslee
From: Churches of Chelan / Douglas County
Re: Partnering with Local Authorities to Apply the Phased Reopen Plan

It is with the utmost respect for your office that we reach out to you as pastors of Chelan & Douglas County.

Regarding closing our state due to Covid-19: We appreciated the steps you took early on in the face of this pandemic to protect our state. We understand leadership requires making the best decision with the best information one has at the time in order to do the most good for the most people. We did not second-guess you but rather supported you.

Regarding closing down churches: We supported the drastic steps to close down houses of worship. We understand this was a very hard decision and appreciate you did not make it lightly. We all stand in agreement with the essential nature of expressing one's religious convictions through corporate public worship; it is one of the core tenants of our great nation. But we understood the unprecedented nature of this unknown threat and willingly suspended our public services (many of us voluntarily before it was mandated), even though it came with a significant price.

Regarding the preservation and protection of life: We are grateful for the continued emphasis on the protection of life you have regularly spoken of in each of your press briefings. This is a core belief and conviction we share. God has made all of life precious. We are never better than when banded together making personal sacrifices to protect the most vulnerable and least able to defend themselves among us, no matter their race, socio-economic status, or stage of life. Thank you for prioritizing this value.

Regarding the Phased Plan: We applaud the release of the 4-phased plan with the accompanying details and appreciate the hard work and careful thinking that resulted in its creation. We feel it represents a measured, responsible path back to the essential rhythm of life we all desire.

Regarding new data and information: We are greatly encouraged by the science and data now indicating the infectious fatality rate is far lower than originally predicted. It is a needed shot of good news to know the vast majority of those who test positive for Covid-19 recover. This is not information we had earlier, and we are relieved to have that data available now.

Regarding the response of our communities: We are grateful for the exceptional and selfless character our local communities have shown in coming together. At great cost to some, we sheltered in place so as to flatten the curve and prevent the systemic overloading of our hospitals, as was the stated goal. The stories of generosity, creativity, sacrifice, and love are many. We could not be more proud of our communities.

Regarding wide-spread and growing impact: In many ways, we pastors are on the front line of the human experience. Our churches contain the cross-section of our communities: young, old, women, men, business owners, medical personnel, teachers, workers, first responders, elected officials, stay-at-home moms, etc. We are seeing first-hand the weight and toll of the Covid-19 crisis.

We are deeply alarmed at the emotional, mental, psychological, and relational damage this extended "stay at home" order is taking. Anecdotally, we are seeing pornography, alcohol, and drug use skyrocket. Those prone to depression and mental illness are spiraling further into isolation and despair. Suicide attempts have spiked. Domestic abuse calls are up. Those suffering from PTSD or struggling with addictions of all kinds are drifting further beyond recovery with each day the shelter in place continues.

Medically, doctors in our churches are expressing grave concerns about the ongoing deferral of simple preventative medicine (proactive health care like colonoscopies, mammograms, routine medical checkup, diabetes care, heart disease check ups, etc). The longer we do this, they tell us, the more we increase the certainty of health complications and death in the near future, that could have otherwise been avoided or mitigated substantially.

We are concerned that a sustained “stay home order” after we have demonstrably “flattened the curve” is now actively contributing to more wide-spread damage that is less visible but certainly just as devastating. And it will last much longer than Covid-19 itself (teen pregnancy, pornography, depression, substance abuse, psychological disorders, addiction, domestic violence, devastating economic loss, fear, stress, etc).

Regarding our approach to reopen: Our concern is holistic. We believe that Covid-19, as serious of threat as it presented, is but one of the myriads of challenges now facing us and threatening the health, happiness, and sanity of our communities. We are concerned that the extended shelter in place order is choosing a known set of vast and far-reaching negative consequences impacting 100% of the people in an attempt to avoid a less broad set of unknown negatives affecting a much smaller percent of people.

This does not mean we do not care for the smaller percentage impacted directly by this virus. Quite the opposite. As we mentioned above, we hold deep convictions as to the preciousness of all life, young and old, healthy or sick. That is precisely why we feel the need to keep as many in our community as strong as possible mentally, emotionally, physically, and economically, so we are able to stay in a position of strength to continue caring for those who are impacted by Covid-19.

Our Request: It is for these reasons that we would respectfully ask that you grant Chelan and Douglas County the variance proposal for which our elected Commissioners are applying. We support their request and are committed to working with them to make sure this return to normal life is done in a responsible way. We trust their desire to protect everyone while using regional data and science to set the pace of local reopening. We are committed to working with them here at the local level to make that happen.

Our Conviction & Commitment: We believe that freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of worship are all essential to the American experience. They are unalienable rights granted us by God and protected by the Constitution we all hold dear.

We also believe that churches are an essential service to the mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational well-being of a community. As pastors, we will share the brunt of dealing with the fallout coming from this time of death, fear, loss, mental anguish, and devastating economic uncertainty. These things do not happen in a vacuum, they happen to people. People we know, love, and pastor. Let there be no question: we stand ready to step into that work with all our might. That is our calling and privilege.

Our Priority: Even with the above constitutional convictions firmly in place, we reluctantly agreed to the suspension of our worship services. This was a unique moment in history facing an unknown threat. Erring on the side of caution was right and proper and we did so willingly. We happily acted to love and protect our neighbor. It is that same love for neighbor that motivates us now.

As churches, our immediate priorities are helping to provide the necessary support so that local businesses can open as soon as possible and local hospitals can reopen safely to serve the many critical human needs currently going unaddressed. We are committed to providing whatever community assistance necessary in order for the variance requirements to be met. We have thousands of willing volunteers ready to help.

It is with these intentions that we request you allow our local elected officials to use regionally specific data to determine the timing and implementation of your phased plan in a way that makes the most sense for us locally.

We think our community has demonstrated extraordinary care for their fellow man. They have exercised restraint in personal freedoms and judiciousness in personal responsibility. We will continue to do so moving into the future. We all have a vested interest in the health and well-being of our fellow man, and we are committed to exercising the utmost care to ensure we reopen safely.

Thank you for your consideration. We are grateful for our local elected officials, including sheriffs, mayors, and county commissioners. We support them 100% in this proposal to apply your plan with regionally-specific precision. Led by our local officials, we will work for comprehensive health and well-being in the face of Covid-19. We pray for you regularly.

Respectfully,

Local Pastors of Chelan & Douglas County

Pastor Josh McPherson
Grace City Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Mike Wilson
Sage Hills Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Steve Haney
Christ Center
Cashmere, WA

Pastor Jeremy Walker
Wen. Four-Square Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Steve Whitney
Calvary Bible Church
Wenatchee, WA

John Smith
Evergreen Baptist Church
Cashmere, WA

Pastor Jay Caron
Calvary Crossroads
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Tye Davis
Valley View SDA Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor John Romine
Light in the Valley
Peshastin, WA

Pastor Dennis Hen
Saddlerock Presb. Church
Wenatchee, WA

Daniel Kellog
Awaken Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Mike Moore
Mid-Valley Baptist
Dryden, WA

Pastor Joe Savino
Seventh-Day Adventist
Wenatchee, WA

Reverend Gene Helsel
Kings Cross
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Darryl Wall
New Life Church
Leavenworth, WA

Pastor Jeremy Payton
Living Hope
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Dallas Stringer
Eastmont Baptist Church
East Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Zach Miller
Tall Timber Ranch
Lake Wenatchee, WA

Pastors Davide Hunter
Wen Valley Baptist
Wenatchee, WA

Andrew Thompson
Columbia Grove
East Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Kyle Plew
Real Life Lake Chelan
Chelan, WA

Pastor Jerry Beebe
Wen. First Assembly
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Eric Barnes
Eastmont Comm. Church
East Wenatchee, WA

Pastors Nick Longmire &
Devid Belcher
Christ Center
Chelan, WA

Father Matt Canlis
Trinity Church
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor John Bossoit
Living Room
East Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Scott Morris
Living Stone Church
Chelan, WA

Pastor Sal DiMare
Praise Center
Wenatchee, WA

Pastor Gary F. Beck
Abundant Life SDA
Cashmere, WA

Pastor Keith Finkbeiner
Gateway Ministries
Waterville, WA

Chaplain Ben Torkelson
Chelan County SO
Douglas County SO