



KATE BROWN  
Governor

May 28, 2020

TO: County Leaders  
FROM: Governor Kate Brown  
SUBJ: Process for Entering Phase II

Encountering this global pandemic here at home has dramatically changed the way Oregonians live and do business. Counties across Oregon took lifesaving steps in compliance with my Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order. Now, Oregon is reopening, cautiously and thoughtfully, county by county, in a phased regional manner. This approach is guided by data and metrics to ensure that our public health infrastructure is adequate to safeguard the health and safety of Oregonians across the state, as we continue to respond to this public health crisis.

To date, most counties in Oregon have entered Phase I. To enter Phase I, a county must successfully demonstrate that it meets certain public health prerequisites in order to safely reopen business and public life. Likewise, to enter Phase II, a county must again ensure that crucial public health metrics have been satisfied.

This letter outlines the process for counties to request to enter Phase II of the reopening process. As prescribed in the A Safe and Strong Oregon, Executive Order 20-25, a county may only enter Phase II after 21 days in Phase I. A county may request to move into Phase II any time after 14 days in Phase I. If a county submits a letter of request and meets the criteria outlined below, it may be approved to move to Phase II.

A letter of request to move into Phase II must contain:

- The date the county is requesting to enter Phase II;
- A re-attestation that county first responders have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- The number of trained contact tracers currently available to the county; and
- Any substantive changes to responses submitted in the Phase I application regarding meeting Phase I prerequisites.

Upon receiving a request, the Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will review the application and ensure that the original prerequisites remain satisfied and that additional criteria are met to enter Phase II. Both the original prerequisites and the additional criteria are listed below. For any county to enter Phase II, all of the following prerequisites and criteria must be met.

**Original Prerequisites:**

1. Over the previous 14-day period, the percentage of emergency department visits for COVID-19-like illnesses (CLI) for the state as a whole must be less than the historic average for flu at the same time of year.  
*\*OHA tracks these data and will confirm that the state meets this metric.*
2. Over the previous 14-day period, a county must show stable or declining hospital admissions for COVID-19. (\*This metric only applies to counties with more than 5 hospitalized cases in the last 28 days.)  
*\*OHA tracks these data and will confirm whether the county meets this metric.*
3. A county must have an adequate Contact Tracing System, as previously defined.  
*\*Include number of contact tracers in request to move to Phase II.*
4. In addition, a county must continue to maintain adequate isolation/quarantine facilities, a Minimum Testing Regimen, as previously defined, sufficient health care capacity to accommodate a 20% increase in suspected or confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, and sufficient PPE supply as reported to OHA's Hospital Capacity system.

**Additional criteria required to enter Phase II:**

*OHA tracks these data. Counties should consider how they are meeting these criteria before requesting to move to Phase II, and describe mitigation efforts when criteria are not met.*

5. Timely Follow-Up: A minimum of 95% of all new cases must be contact traced within 24 hours as reported in the state's ORPHEUS system over the previous 7 day and 14 day time periods.
6. Successful tracing: A minimum of 70% of new COVID-19 positive cases must be traced to an existing positive case over the previous 7 day and 14 day time periods.
7. No increase in incident cases or positivity: \*
  - a) There cannot be a five percent or greater increase in new cases in the county over the past 7 days; or
  - b) There cannot be a significant increase in the percentage of positive cases out of total tests taken in your county over the past 7 days.

*\*If a controlled outbreak in a group living or working facility is solely responsible for violating this criteria and where extensive follow-up testing and isolation has been successfully carried out, this criteria may be waived by the Governor with support from the Oregon Health Authority.*

If you feel you are ready to enter Phase II, please email me a letter signed by county management containing the information above to [Jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov](mailto:Jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov).