



KATE BROWN
Governor

June 4, 2020

Morrow County Board of Commissioners
Melissa Lindsay, Chair
110 N. Court St.
Heppner, OR 97836

Chair Lindsay,

Thank you for the effort you, your residents, and your public health system have put into containing the spread of COVID-19 in your county.

I am pleased to inform you that your county's application to enter Phase 2 on June 5th has been approved.

My goals in Phase 2 remain the same as they were when we initially laid out the roadmap for a phased reopening of a safe and strong Oregon:

1. Minimize hospitalizations and deaths;
2. Allow people to safely return to work so they can support themselves and their families;
3. Minimize risk to frontline workers;
4. Avoid overwhelming the health care system;
5. Protect those at highest risk of severe illness, especially communities of color, the elderly, and people with underlying health conditions; and
6. Support for small local gatherings that preserve community cohesion and cultural practices.

I want to be clear that moving to Phase 2 comes with increased risk. With every restriction lifted we know transmission of the virus has the potential to increase. You should be proud of the work done thus far by your local public health department to test, track, and isolate new cases of COVID-19. That work has made it possible for your county to move to the next phase.

Phase 2 is the last full phase until there is a widely available treatment or a vaccine for COVID-19. My office and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will be evaluating current guidance on an ongoing basis, and we are open to your continued feedback. Your county will need to continue close monitoring of OHA's six public health indicators to manage any increase in new cases. Maintaining a culturally responsive and robust contact tracing system, as well as an effective testing and isolation strategy, will be key to containing any potential spread of the virus.

OHA will be monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in your county, and throughout the state, and will be ready to work with you if any concerns arise.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and vigilance on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown