



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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July 16, 2020

Andre Fresco, Administrator
Yakima Health District
1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive
Union Gap, WA 98903

Jason Zaccaria, Administrator
Benton-Franklin Health District
7102 West Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336

Dear Administrator Fresco and Administrator Zaccaria:

I am writing to continue to clarify the allowed reopening of limited businesses in our negotiated agreement of the Roadmap to Recovery for the COVID-19 pandemic in your counties. In particular, it is the restaurant reopening that needs clarification in relation to wineries and breweries.

The context for our negotiated agreement to allow Benton, Franklin, and Yakima Counties to move out of the Phase 1 Stay Home Stay Healthy order when the risk assessment measures for reopening were far from being met was to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 from these county residents to other parts of the state and to mitigate unsafe activity occurring within the counties. We heard loud and clear from you, your elected leaders, and community members that county residents were:

1. Going to other counties for non-essential services and risking the spread of COVID-19 to other areas of the state;
2. Engaging in some non-essential services outside of a regulatory structure within the counties, such that services were being conducted in an unsafe manner, creating more risk for COVID-19 transmission; and
3. That your economies and business operators were being negatively affected by these two issues.

Thus, the Washington State Department of Health and Governor Inslee decided to enter into a negotiated agreement to address these issues and serve the public health goal of containing COVID-19. That resulted in a *limited subset* of activities to be allowed from the modified Phase 1 activities listing in the Safe Start Washington: Phased Reopening County-By-County plan.

As it relates to our negotiated agreement for allowing only outdoor seating at 50 percent capacity (or expanded capacity maintaining the 6-foot distance between chairs from separate tables), increased capacity for restaurants, winery, and brewery operations were not intended to be included, just as bars were not included (however, in-store retail at 15 percent capacity and shipping operations are allowed). The reasons for this were two-fold:

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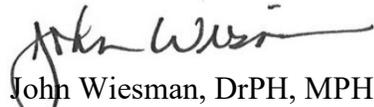
- First, such operations promote the bringing in of others from outside the county, which threatens the containment strategy for COVID-19.
- Second, similar to bars, tasting/sampling at wineries and breweries creates a social setting (individuals/groups outside one's household interacting for an extended period of time without the use of face coverings) that can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We do understand that a limited number of wineries and breweries serve *full meals prepared on-site, in building kitchen facilities under the ownership of the winery and brewery* and are substantially equivalent to a restaurant. These businesses are allowed to operate with outside dining at 50 percent capacity (or expanded capacity maintaining the 6-foot distance between chairs from separate tables). Wineries and breweries that do not serve full meals prepared on-site in building kitchen facilities under the ownership of the winery and brewery are not allowed to operate.

It is my intent that this clarification provide the needed guidance to you and your community to implement the Roadmap to Recovery agreement as intended.

I appreciate the work you and your community are doing to contain and reduce the disease burden of COVID-19 in your community. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this shared goal.

Sincerely,



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Dr. Kathy Lofy, Department of Health
Dr. Teresa Everson, Yakima Health District
Dr. Amy Person, Benton-Franklin Health District