



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Yakima County Announces Advancement to Phase 2”

YAKIMA, WA- Yakima County Commissioners are pleased to announce that Yakima County has been approved to advance to Phase 2.

County Commissioners credit this success to non-stop negotiations with state health officials and the Governor’s Office.

“I have been pushing the Governor’s office for months, fighting for our County to safely reopen,” Commissioner Vicki Baker said. “We have finally received support from State Health Officials and the Governor and will be moving forward,” Commissioner Vicki Baker remarked.

Commissioner Vicki Baker has been working with Benton, Franklin, Douglas, and Chelan County Commissioners to coordinate efforts. She has called on our county’s community members and business owners to contact the state officials and share their concerns about our Valley’s economic future, and their willingness to continue safe practices.

“Since July, we have been chipping away at many phase 2 activities,” Baker added. “It has been challenging to receive approval for activities one at a time, and then wait for the Governor’s Office to approve each one.”

“We haven’t qualified for the criteria on the Governor’s Risk Assessment Dashboard to make that move to phase 2, but every time we have added a new activity, we have done so safely,” she said. “Yakima County has been called out by Governor Inslee on many occasions for our best practices for safety. We are ready for phase 2.”

Movie patrons and diners will be excited to hear that movie theaters may open at <25% capacity and restaurant's will be able to increase capacity to 50%. Libraries and museums will also be allowed to open, with a capacity of 25%. Indoor religious service capacity will be allowed a capacity of 25%.

For more information on additional services under Phase 2, please monitor www.YVOpenAndSafe.com. Business owners will find important guidance there, which is specific to Yakima County.

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