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May 29, 2020.

Governor Kate Brown
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Request to move into Phase II Reopening

Dear Governor Brown,

Baker County is requesting to enter Phase II of Reopening on June 6, 2020. In making this request, we certify the following:

- We attest the County first responders have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment;
- Baker County has a 15-person Contact Tracing Team, which exceeds the level required for the population of Baker County; and,
- No substantive changes have occurred since the responses were submitted in the Phase I application.

Phase I 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.*

Baker County has had zero hospitalized cases over the course of the event.

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.*

Baker County Health Department provides the staff for Case Investigations and Contact Tracing throughout the county for all new cases. This team is led by the Nursing Supervisor and Office Manager, and is composed of seven BCHD staff members, two Eastern Oregon Modernization Collaborative staff members, and six Baker County employees trained in Contact Investigations. Currently Baker County's Contact Tracing team consists of 15 members for a population of 16,000, which exceeds OHA minimum for contact tracers. One member of the Contact Tracing team speaks Spanish.

4. In addition, a county must continue to maintain:

- a.) Adequate isolation/quarantine facilities,

Baker County has a plan and continues to maintain adequate facilities for isolation and quarantine.

- b.) Minimum Testing Regimen, as previously defined,

Baker County has received 200 sample kits to ensure we meet the minimum testing requirements. In addition to the minimum testing regimen, Baker County has been selected to conduct an additional 15 random tests per week through our local hospital, St. Alphonsus Baker City.

- c.) Sufficient health care capacity to accommodate a 20% increase in suspected or confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations,

As part of a large, integrated care delivery network across Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center - Baker City (SAMC-BC) is uniquely positioned to accommodate patients and their care needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the hospital is licensed for 25 medical/surgical and ICU beds, in the event of a "surge" of patients with known or suspected coronavirus, Saint Alphonsus Health System (SAHS) is prepared to increase its capacity through a multi-tiered response plan overseen by the SAHS Incident Command structure. SAMC-BC was targeted to provide

for surge capacity at 150% of the current state at the end of March 2020, which equates to 5 ICU beds and 30 Medical/Surgical beds total. In collaboration with Baker County Emergency Management, SAMC-BC has developed a surge plan, which was submitted to the Oregon Health Authority on April 24th, 2020, that exceeds this targeted surge capacity. An alternate care site has been established in close proximity to SAMC-BC and St. Luke's Clinic which has an initial capacity for 60 additional beds - a 240% increase.

d.) and sufficient PPE supply as reported to OHA's Hospital Capacity system.

Baker County not only works with the first responders in their PPE supply, but also with all health care providers to ensure they have sufficient PPE.

Phase II Criteria

Baker County has reviewed the following criteria before requesting to move to Phase II and described any mitigation efforts if needed to meet the criteria.

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.

Baker County's Contact Tracing Team continues to have the ability to contact-trace at least 95% of the positive cases within 24 hours.

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.

Baker County is able to meet this criteria.

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.

Baker County has had no positive cases over the past 7 days. Our one positive case was 24 days ago.

Thank you for your consideration of our application to enter Phase II. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 541-519-8421 (cell) or mbennett@bakercounty.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Bennett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark E. Bennett,
Baker County Commissioner