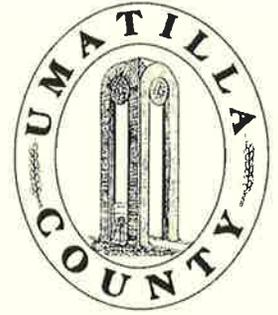


Umatilla County

Board of County Commissioners



George L. Murdock
541-278-6202

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541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Governor Kate Brown
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Request to move into Phase II Reopening

Dear Governor Brown,

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

- We attest the County first responders have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment;
- Umatilla County currently has a Contact Tracing Team with 12.2 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) dedicated to COVID response. This exceeds the level required for the population of Umatilla County; and, we have additional trained personnel to immediately increase that number to 17.2 FTE should an emergency arise.
- We significantly exceed the testing requirements for Umatilla County
- Residents from all areas of Umatilla County have convenient access to testing
- We have arranged for sufficient isolation and quarantine facilities for those who do not have such facilities of their own
- We have sufficient hospital capacity should there be a surge
- Our current rate of tracing for all new cases ranges between 95 and 100%
- There has been no significant increase in cases or positivity
- 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.*

Umatilla County has two individuals hospitalized as of this date.

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.*

The Umatilla County Health Department provides the staff for Case Investigations and Contact Tracing throughout the county for all new cases. In response to moving to Phase I, the County established a tracing center and employed an additional seven staff members. The tracing center is open seven days a week and the tracing staff are led by regular leaders in the Umatilla County Department. Three members of the staff of the Umatilla County Health Department are Native American Tribal Members and the County has long maintained Spanish speaking capacity in both Pendleton and Hermiston due to the nature of our population.

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

- a.) Adequate isolation/quarantine facilities – noted earlier

Umatilla County has made arrangements with a facility in Pendleton and another in Hermiston.

- b.) Minimum Testing Regimen, as previously defined

Umatilla County would require a capacity for 240 per week. Interpath Laboratories headquartered in Pendleton have the capacity to test 300 individuals per day for 6 days a week. They received additional reagents the week of May 11th and capacity may increase with these supplies. Interpath also has an active HRSA grant to pay for COVID-19 testing for self-pay clients, which includes provider or patient collected specimens. Good Shepherd and St. Anthony Hospital both have the capacity to test 30 per day at each Hospital. St. Anthony also has the ability to test 30 per day at their clinic. They are working with Incyte laboratory to test on Saturdays. In addition, some residents received health services including testing at hospitals in Walla Walla and the Tri-Cities due to convenience.

- c.) Sufficient health care capacity to accommodate a 20% increase in suspected or confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations,
- d.) and sufficient PPE supply as reported to OHA's Hospital Capacity system.

Umatilla 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

Umatilla 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.

Umatilla 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.

Umatilla County is able to meet this criteria.

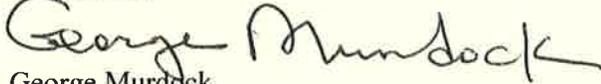
7. No increase in incident cases or positivity:

- 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.

A five percent increase in new cases in Umatilla County over the past 7 days is a variable metric. Expanded testing availability, combined with updated testing guidelines, and aggressive contact tracing results in additional contacts being tested. Umatilla County understands the significance of monitoring the incidence of COVID cases, and has positioned our contact tracing center to quickly and efficiently follow up on all positive tests.

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 541-278-6202 (office) or george.murdock@umatillacounty.net

Respectfully Submitted



George Murdock,
Umatilla County Commissioner

GM/ms