



KATE BROWN
Governor

June 17, 2020

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
Chair Deborah Kafoury
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, OR 97214

Chair Kafoury,

Thank you for the effort you, your hospitals, and your public health experts put into your plans for demonstrating your county's preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After careful review of your application, as well as a review of statewide data today with the Oregon Health Authority, I have made the decision to approve your county's application for entry into Phase 1, effective Friday, June 19.

In addition, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and my Medical Advisory Panel, I have made two other decisions:

1. OHA will soon be issuing guidance requiring the wearing of face coverings for all individuals in indoor public settings in the greater Portland metro area, comprised of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. This is a mandate and will go into effect Wednesday, June 24.
2. Given the geography of the Portland Metro tri-county region and the fact that residents of one county often work and travel to neighboring counties, it is untenable for one county in the region be at a different phase than the others. To address this practical reality, for future evaluation of public health indicators for the region, OHA will begin providing data showing combined totals for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties together. Future decisions around modifications to restrictions and movement within phases for these three counties will apply to all three counties as one geographic unit.

Thank you for all of your hard work to keep Oregonians safe during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown