



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
MAY 14, 2020**

This meeting was held on Google Hangout Meet
Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/joo-mudn-vpm?hs=122>
or call in to [1-502-382-4610](tel:1-502-382-4610) PIN: 321 403 268#

PRESENT: Scott Hege, Chair
Kathy Schwartz, Vice-Chair
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner

STAFF: Kathy Clark, Executive Assistant
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Agenda Item – COVID-19 in Wasco County – Phase 1 Reopening

Chair Hege opened the session at 11:02 a.m. He announced that last night the County received a letter from the State of Oregon approving Wasco County for Phase 1 of the Governor's plan to reopen Oregon. He recognized all those in Unified Command for the work they have done to get us to this point. He expressed concern that we are moving back to a state where people will be opening. He said that while it is great and what we want, we need to be sure to do so safely so that we do not go back to where we have been. This reopening is not a return to normal; we need to continue to be good citizens. He noted that our community has taken the social distancing and wearing of masks seriously and need to continue to do so in order to keep the virus at bay. We need to look to the professionals for advice on what Phase 1 means.

Mr. Stone echoed the Chair's comments, saying that it has been a pleasure to work alongside the other members of Unified Command. All the work has been done by over 60 people from organizations throughout the three counties. That work is what has gotten us to where we are today. He said he hopes that the citizens appreciate the amount of time and effort that has been invested and be mindful that we need their help to make sure we continue to stem the spread of the virus.

Public Health Officer Dr. Mimi McDonell reviewed a slide presentation (attached) that outlined the requirements and suggested guidelines under Phase 1 of the Governor's plan to reopen Oregon. She said we can expect a slight increase in cases; things that will keep us from progressing are if our health care system becomes overwhelmed or if we cannot do contact tracing.

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Vice-Chair Schwartz noted that the minimum time in Phase 1 before progressing to Phase 2 is 21 days. She asked if 3 weeks is enough time to know if we can safely move into Phase 2. Dr. McDonell replied affirmatively saying that the 14-day window from exposure to symptoms is the longest period it takes; the average is 5-6 days.

Chair Hege opened the meeting to the public for comments or questions.

Mike Albrich of Moro County expressed concerns about out-of-state workers staffing renewable energy projects in Oregon. He said that it puts us at a great risk and is a slap in the face to workers who are out of work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that it also hurts the apprentice programs supporting the trades in our state. We want to be able to pass the benefits on to other Oregonians.

Dr. McDonell said that we are going to have a lot of people coming in from California to help with the harvest. California has been keeping their numbers low and we welcome the workers but we have to make sure that our businesses are ready, can serve them safely and that they know how to be safe. She encouraged Mr. Albrich to speak with Moro County's Health Department to make sure that they are as safe as possible.

Jodi Guetzloe-Parker introduced herself as a representative of a local union based out of Portland with 3,000 union workers throughout the state. She said she wants to encourage counties that when they bring these projects into the community, to ask for local hires. That benefits everyone in the community through increased tax revenues, support of local economies and higher traffic at retail businesses. There has to be a way to capture and keep some of these funds in the community. She noted that she sent a letter previously outlining this request. She commended the group on achieving Phase 1 status and thanked the Board for their time.

Chair Hege asked that Ms. Guetzloe-Parker resend the letter.

Vice-Chair Schwartz thanked the public for joining the meeting. She said that we are really looking at maintaining our new life skills through Phase 1; skills such as not shaking hands, using elbows to open doors and using face masks which is more important now than ever. She said that there are resources to help people comply. She noted that we are surrounded by counties not able to reopen which lends itself to people coming to our county to visit; we will need to keep an eye on that activity. We will continue to do our best to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

Commissioner Kramer agreed saying that this is a team sport – we all need to follow the rules.

Forest Service Area Manager Lynn Burditt said that she is working with partners on both sides of the river to create strategies for public lands in the scenic area. They

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are hoping to reopen, in some fashion, the Tuesday or Wednesday following Memorial Day. They are coordinating with Skamania County which has some hiking restrictions in place; they have asked their Sheriff to work with other area Sheriffs as to how they might approach things in a reopening scenario. She noted that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to continue the conversation. She said that they want to be in alignment with Wasco County and are looking for an endorsement for how they are approaching it as a group. They are working on messaging to share.

A member of the public asked if retail stores need to require masks and one-way aisle traffic. Dr. McDonnell replied that retail stores are required to have masks for employees; one-way traffic is a recommendation but not a requirement.

Mr. Stone said that he wants to address how Wasco County as an organization will move forward doing business so the public knows what to expect. He stated that it will be business as it has been over the last two months; all department directors have put forward a plan for how they will conduct business – there is a common theme throughout the organization with nuances depending on the services each department provides.

Human Resources Director Nichole Biechler said that in light of the Governor's guidance, our recommendation is to keep County staff and public safety the top priority. Staff that is currently working from home will continue to work from home. We are encouraging the public to do business by phone, email and video conferencing. If an in-person meeting is necessary, we ask that the public make an appointment and wear personal protective equipment. We have set benchmarks for office space sanitation; customer-facing departments will need to clean after each public visit.

Mr. Stone said we encourage citizens to pick up the phone or use email. All of the contact information is available on our website; all staff has the ability to video conference for face to face interactions. He added that today is the last day to mail in ballots to be assured that they arrive in time to be counted – please take advantage of that option.

Chair Hege said that what he is hearing is that people are being well-served and staff is even more productive in some cases.

Commissioner Kramer added that common sense will play a role; we need to be flexible and our team is doing a great job in helping citizens.

Vice-Chair Schwartz stated that she is very pleased that the County will continue to do business as we have been – not necessarily opening the building. She said we need to define the term PPE when we use it so that people understand exactly what we are referencing. She asked if signage will be posted for operations.

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Mr. Stone replied that doors have been open but we are trying to manage how we interface with the public. If we do need to do face to face meetings, we want to schedule those to minimize exposure for both staff and citizens. Each department will have guidance on how to interface with people who come in. When we talk about PPE, face masks is what we mean and if anyone is showing symptoms, they should definitely stay home and call.

Chair Hege noted that the Sheriff's Department is largely the same as it was previously, however the front office counter looks different. He pointed out that there is a ballot drop box on Fifth Street outside the Courthouse and another in Maupin.

Chair Hege thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at noon.

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners



Scott C. Hege, Board Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner

Wasco County

Update 5/14/2020

Miriam D. McDonell, MD, FACOG

North Central Public Health District

Re-Opening Oregon

Wasco County Situation

- As of 5/13/2020
- 16 cases
- 816 tests (2% positive rate)
- 1 death
- 9(+) recovered

Neighboring Counties

- Hood River
 - 14 cases, 5+ recovered, 768 tested, 1.8% pos
- Sherman
 - 1 case, 1 recovered, 48 tested, 2% pos
- Gilliam
 - 0 cases, 33 tested
- Klickitat
 - 22 cases, 13 +recovered, 482 tested, 3 deaths, 4.5% pos

Opening Framework Statewide

- May 1
 - Non-emergency medical procedures for medical and dental clinics to re-start (PPE dependent)
- May 5
 - Recreation where physical distancing can be followed
 - This just in! Tennis Courts/Pickle Ball Courts and Skate Park to open tomorrow!!!
- May 15
 - Stand alone retail that was previously closed
 - Childcare open to all, summer school, camps and youth programs

Phase I (Yay Us!) May 15

- Restaurants and bars
- Personal care- salons, barber shops, massage, etc.
- Personal care- gyms/fitness
- Local gatherings (up to 25 people)

Guidance that still applies!

- Keep Your Distance!! Continue 6 foot rule
- Stay home if you are sick
- Stay home if you are at high risk
- Wash your hands, cover your cough
- Face coverings in public when you can't stay 6 feet apart (protect others)
- Stay close to home

Sector Specific Guidance

■ Retail- You Must

- Limit number of customers to maintain 6' rule
- Post clear signage regarding: Covid-19 symptoms, stay home if sick, physical distance rules, etc
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of work areas
- Require all employees to wear face coverings

Sector Specific Guidance

■ Retail- You Should

- Encourage customers to wear face coverings
- Plastic barriers in front of cashiers
- One way traffic flow
- Signs/tape of floor to encourage physical distance
- Prohibit customers from trying on items worn on face
- Offer curbside pickup

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Child Care- You Must**
 - Limit number of children in rooms
 - Registered Family-1 group of 10, no space req.
 - Certified Family- 2 groups of 10, max 16, staff/child req, space req.
 - Certified Center- May have multiple groups of 10, staff/child req., space req
 - Cohort
 - Groups stable, space stable, staff stable

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Child Care- You Must**
 - Sanitize between groups sharing space
 - Stagger arrival and drop off times
 - Prioritize essential workers
 - Adhere to all cleaning protocols
 - Provide on-going COVID-19 training to staff
 - Keep daily logs
 - Permit staff to wear face coverings

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Restaurants and Bars- You Must**
 - Determine and adhere to max occupancy with 6' rule
 - Space tables to adhere to 6' rule
 - Max number of 10 in party
 - Close by 10PM
 - No self-service
 - No counter or bar seating (unless facing wall or window- bar ordering is ok)

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Restaurants and Bars- You Must**
 - Provide signage on walls and floors
 - Single use or cleanable menus
 - Minimize employee bare-hand contact
 - Reinforce employee hand hygiene
 - Employees must wear face coverings
 - Employees must wear gloves when cleaning
 - Prohibit karaoke, pool tables and bowling

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Restaurants and Bars- You Should**
 - Assign a greeter or host to manage customer flow
 - Limit # of staff who serve individual parties
 - Encourage reservations
 - Increase availability of hand washing/sanitizer stations
 - Post clear signage

Sector Specific Guidance

■ Personal Services- You Must

- Screen clients for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure, exclude “yes” clients and keep a record for 60 days
- Review COVID-19 information regarding disease spread
- Determine and adhere to max. occupancy with 6’ rule
- Adhere to 6’ spacing of clients
- Follow all cleaning and disinfecting rules

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Personal Services- You Must**
 - Have client wait outside or in car
 - Scheduled appointments only
 - Post signage, adhere to sanitization rules
 - Provide employee training
 - Employees must wear face coverings
 - Employees must wear a clean smock between each client
 - Drape each client in clean drape (if applicable)
 - Follow hand washing guidance

Sector Specific Guidance

- **Personal Services- You Should**
 - Temperature check employees
 - Medical grade masks/face shields
 - Have clients wear face coverings
 - Wear disposable gloves
 - Avoid face to face contact
 - Employees change clothes between clients
 - Employees change clothes before going home

Sector Specific Guidance

- Awaiting guidance
 - Transit
 - Summer School/Camps/Youth Activities
 - Gyms

Phase II

- After 3 weeks in Phase I
- Increase size of gatherings (50? 100?)
- Increase office work
- Some congregate care visitation

Phase III

- Not until reliable treatment or prevention available
- All large gatherings should be cancelled or significantly modified **through** at least September