



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2021

Media Contact: Melissa Morin, Public Information Officer

Phone: (360) 594-2504

E-mail address: WUC_JIC@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whatcom County Moves to Phase 2 of the Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery Plan

Bellingham, WA - Data released today by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) enables the North Region, which includes Whatcom County, to move to Phase 2 of the [Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery Reopening Plan](#), effective Monday, Feb. 15.

“This is good news for our community. We’re happy to see that Whatcom is trending in the right direction, and that trend has contributed to our region moving forward,” said Erika Lautenbach, director of the Whatcom County Health Department. “This creates more opportunities for our local businesses to open and rebuild and more options for our community to support our local businesses.”

Metric:	Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100K population	Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100K population	Average 7-day percent occupancy of ICU staffed beds	7-day percent positive of COVID-19 tests
Time period:	2021-01-03 to 2021-01-16 vs. 2021-01-17 to 2021-01-30	2021-01-10 to 2021-01-23 vs. 2021-01-24 to 2021-02-06	2021-01-31 to 2021-02-06	2021-01-17 to 2021-01-23
North Region	-32%	-17%	53%	6%



Trends in the North Region are low or decreasing across all four metrics.

Businesses and individuals may engage in more activities during Phase 2, but there are still some restrictions. Activities permitted during Phase 2 include indoor social gatherings with 5 or fewer people and outdoor gatherings with 15 or fewer people, both limited to two households. Indoor dining is now permitted with 25% maximum occupancy, and fitness centers may resume appointment-free indoor operations, also with 25% maximum occupancy. Restrictions for worship services, retail stores, professional and personal services remain unchanged.

Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery

Activities	Phase 1	Phase 2
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Indoor	Prohibited	Max of 5 people from outside your household, limit 2 households
Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Outdoor	Max of 10 people from outside your household, limit 2 households	Max of 15 people from outside your household, limit 2 households
Worship Services	Indoor maximum 25% capacity	Indoor maximum 25% capacity
Retail Stores (includes farmers' markets, grocery and convenience stores, pharmacies)	Maximum 25% of capacity, encourage curbside pick-up	Maximum 25% of capacity, encourage curbside pick-up
Professional Services	Remote work strongly encouraged, 25% capacity otherwise.	Remote work strongly encouraged, 25% capacity otherwise.
Personal Services	Indoor maximum 25% capacity.	Indoor maximum 25% capacity.
Eating and Drinking Establishments (establishments only serving individuals 21+ and no food remain closed)	Indoor dining prohibited. Outdoor or open-air dining, end alcohol service/delivery at 11PM, max 6 per table, limit 2 households per table	Indoor dining available 25% capacity, end alcohol service/delivery at 11PM. Outdoor or open-air dining available, max 6 per table, limit 2 households per table
Weddings and Funerals	Ceremonies are limited to a total of no more than 30 people. Indoor receptions, wakes, or similar gatherings in conjunction with such ceremonies are prohibited.	Ceremonies and indoor receptions, wakes, or similar gatherings in conjunction with such ceremonies are permitted and must follow the appropriate venue requirements. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply. Dancing is prohibited.
Indoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments (includes gyms, fitness organizations, indoor recreational sports, indoor pools, outdoor parks and hiking trails, outdoor campsites, outdoor K-12 sports, outdoor personal training, indoor dance, no-contact martial arts, gymnastics, climbing)	Low risk and moderate risk sports permitted for practice and training only in stable groups of no more than 5 athletes. Appointment based fitness/training; less than 1 hour sessions, no more than 1 customer/athlete per room or per 500/sq. ft. for large facilities.	Low and moderate risk sports competitions permitted (no tournaments). High risk sports permitted for practice and training. Fitness and training and indoor sports maximum 25% capacity.
Outdoor Sports and Fitness Establishments (outdoor fitness organizations, outdoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, outdoor parks and hiking trails, outdoor campsites, outdoor K-12 sports, outdoor personal training, outdoor dance, outdoor motorsports)	Low and moderate risk sports permitted for practice and training only (no tournaments). Outdoor guided activities, hunting, fishing, motorsports, parks, camping, hiking, biking, running, snow sports, permitted.	Low, moderate, and high-risk sports competitions allowed (no tournaments), maximum 200 including spectators.
Indoor Entertainment Establishments (includes aquariums, indoor theaters, indoor arenas, indoor concert halls, indoor gardens, indoor museums, indoor bowling, indoor trampoline facilities, indoor cardrooms, indoor entertainment activities of any kind, indoor event spaces)	Private rentals/tours for individual households of no more than 6 people permitted. General admission prohibited.	Maximum 25% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply.
Outdoor Entertainment Establishments (includes zoos, outdoor gardens, outdoor aquariums, outdoor theaters, outdoor stadiums, outdoor event spaces, outdoor arenas, outdoor concert venues, rodeos)	Ticketed events only: Groups of 10, limit 2 households, timed ticketing required.	Groups of 15, limit 2 households per group, maximum 200 including spectators for events.

NOTE: Live entertainment is no longer prohibited but must follow guidance above for the appropriate venue. Long-term Care facilities, professional and collegiate sports remain governed by their current guidance/proclamations separate from this plan. Not every business activity is listed. For a complete list of guidance for business activities, click [here](#).

More activities are permitted during Phase 2, but some restrictions remain in place.

Restrictions may be further loosened in the future if current trends continue their downward trajectory. The next Roadmap to Recovery update will be released on Feb. 26.

“We’re here because we’ve done the hard work,” said Lautenbach. “We can’t let up, though. Let’s keep up our habits of mask wearing, hand washing and physical distancing to continue our forward progress.”

###