



PRESS RELEASE  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Skagit County Moves to Phase 2 of Safe Start plan

Today, Skagit County received approval from the Department of Health to officially move to Phase 2 of the Governor's Safe Start- Reopening Washington Plan.

"We are excited to move forward. It is long overdue," said Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson.

Phase 2 is not a total lifting of Stay Home, Stay Healthy restrictions. Much of the guidance issued by Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand are still in effect. Skagit County residents and visitors should continue to:

- Wear a mask in public, as long they are medically able.
- Avoid large group gatherings, which are still not allowed.
- Use physical distancing, staying six feet apart from anyone they come in contact with outside their immediate household members.
- Continue to telecommute, if possible.
- For those who are higher risk, continue to stay home as much as possible.

Phase 2 allows for the reopening of some in-person retail, professional services, personal services and restaurants with up to fifty percent capacity. [Businesses must be able to comply with issued guidelines on physical distancing and hygiene.](#) Additionally, you are now allowed to gather with five or fewer people from outside of your immediate household per week. Gatherings with more people are still prohibited and considered unsafe.

For more information and complete guidance on requirements for businesses to reopen, please visit [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov) or [www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus](http://www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus)

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