



Hood River County news release 5/6/20

For more information contact:

Jeff Hecksel, Administrator, Hood River County

(541) 386-3970

[Jeff.Hecksel@co.hood-river.or.us](mailto:Jeff.Hecksel@co.hood-river.or.us)

[www.GetReadyGorge.com](http://www.GetReadyGorge.com) / <https://co.hood-river.or.us>

## **Hood River Board of County Commissioners to consider draft Hood River Reopening Plan May 7 at 4pm.**

**County's first step toward submitting plans to Governor for reopening of Hood River County.**

The Hood River Board of Commissioners will consider a reopening plan for Hood River County at their meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. [Link to meeting info here](#)

A task force from Hood River County Public Health Department, Hood River County Administration, Hood River Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, One Community Health and the Cities of Hood River and Cascade Locks edited the Hood River County Reopening Plan before County Commissioners.

The County plan requests the Governor allow Phase 1 reopening of Hood River May 15.

Reopening plans are specific to how the County meets or exceeds the Governor's reopening health care metrics, using the State reopening model.

The Governor's Reopening Framework requires County plans address "gateway criteria" for three-phased reopening, such as access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care providers, adequacy of COVID testing, and contact tracing of those that come in contact with COVID positive cases, and other measures to limit spread of the disease.

Hood River County plans are certified by three agencies – Hood River County Health Department, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital and Board of County Commissioners.

"Hood River County is committed to a data driven reopening strategy that considers the health and welfare of all our community members," said Jeff Hecksel, Hood River County Administrator. "The County also recognizes the severe economic impact of this COVID crisis and hopes to aid the community recovery process. The County's process will remain deliberate, thoughtful and inclusive."

*-continued-*

The Reopening Plan's steering committee met four times in the last ten days. Hood River County Public Health Department's Medical Officer Christopher VanTilburg and Providence Hood River CEO Jeanie Vieira drafted letters supporting Hood River County's Reopening Plan as submitted to Commissioners for approval.

### **How and when can businesses reopen?**

The County's plan is the first step required before closed businesses can reopen, pending changes and approval by the Governor.

[The Hood River Reopening Plan](#) defers to State guidance for specifics of business and industry reopening by sector - visit the Governor's policy page at <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policy/Pages/jobs.aspx>.

### **Where do I find out more?**

Locally, [www.GetReadyGorge.com](http://www.GetReadyGorge.com) is the best source for updated Hood River County COVID information from Hood River County, Public Health, Emergency Operations Center (EOC,) and our network of Cities, Ports, public health and safety partners.

Reopening plans and business guidance, along with ongoing health and safety updates, and available resources will continue to be posted to this website on the BUSINESS page.

### **Where to from here?**

In order to be successful, all of us should remain diligent to help prevent the spread of COVID – by practicing social distancing, wearing face coverings, and following health guidelines as our community and State begin to reopen in the future.

The Hood River Reopening Plan includes ongoing monitoring. There may be stops and starts of reopening across Oregon, as the economy opens. It will take time to achieve herd immunity and a vaccine.

Hood River County appreciates the sacrifice and dedication of community members, businesses, healthcare workers, first responders and nonprofit partners. We are all in this together. ###