

Public Health Advisory Board  
**COVID Employer Support Task Force**

Update to the Council Committee of the Whole

July 7th 2020



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department



# Task Force Purpose

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**To help our community's  
businesses and organizations  
share, innovate, and improve  
best practices for safety  
in the face of COVID-19  
now and in the future**

This is not a regulatory process. This is our community coming together to help each other be safe and feel safe.

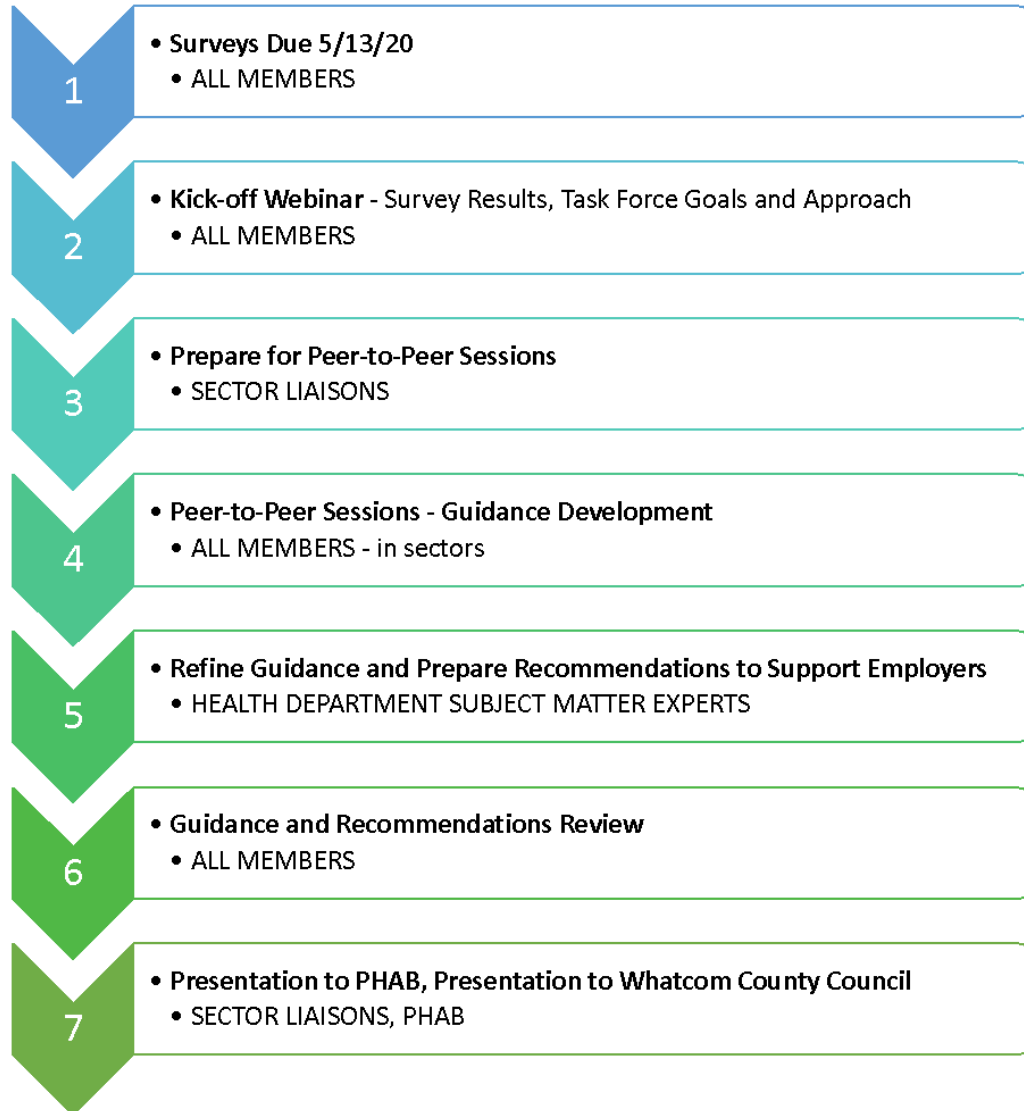
# Task Force: 139 members in 18 sectors

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- Agricultural sector
- Auto dealerships
- Children's recreation and activities
- Construction
- Events, Festivals
- Faith community
- Gyms, athletic clubs and studios
- Healthcare
- Hotels and short-term rentals
- Human service providers
- Libraries
- Manufacturing
- Movie theaters/Museums
- Personal Services - Nail and Hair Salons
- Professional services
- Real estate
- Retail businesses
- Restaurants, bars, and nightclubs

# *“An iterative process”*

## Task Force Action Schedule



Steps 4-7 will happen for different sectors at different speeds; so we will roll these forward in batches

**We are here**

# Launching the Task Force

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## Laid the groundwork in mid-May

- Surveyed all Task Force members
- Identified Liaisons for each sector
- Hosted webinars/trainings
- Created a comprehensive Google site to share information
- Liaisons reached out to their own professional networks to gather input (417 surveys/interviews)

# Peer-to-Peer Sessions

## In June, sector groups began meeting

- Sector Liaisons
- Members of the Task Force
- Health Dept. Subject Matter Expert
- PHAB Representative
- Facilitator/Notetaker



**18 Sectors**  
**40 Sector Liaisons**  
**139 Task Force Members**

# What we knew

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*Our conversations and surveys confirmed...*

- Businesses and organizations needed **clear, straightforward guidance** that they could understand and rely on.
- People needed help **navigating challenges in implementation.**
- We needed to support businesses in responding to **different phases of the pandemic.**

# What we are learning

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- Businesses want to partner and support each other in creating a culture of health and safety, and economic sustainability.
- The Task Force is facilitating an increase in commitment and empowerment.
- Task Force members now collaborating with Health Department to host Open Houses, share best practices.



# What we are creating: **WHATCOM TOGETHER**



A network of  
peer support



Campaign!



On-line  
Resources:  
Guidance  
Sheets,  
FAQs, tips,  
templates

# WHATCOM TOGETHER: Network of Peer Support

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- **Establishing networks** for communication to businesses
- **Sharing tools** - Safe Work Plans, policies, staff communications
- **Hosting Open Houses** within business networks
- **Supporting peers** to connect with each other and help each other navigate challenges



# WHATCOM TOGETHER:

## On-line resources

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**New WCHD webpage** informed by the needs of customers for information and resources



- Essential Guidance and Templates
- Recommended Tips and Tools
- FAQs
- Link to Campaign Materials

[Individuals, Families & Households](#)[Healthcare Providers](#)[Resources for Businesses & Organizations](#)[Masks and Face Coverings](#)[COVID-19 Testing](#)[Media & Press](#)[Fact Sheets](#)[Whatcom County Health Officer Orders](#)[FAQs](#)[COVID Employer Support Task Force](#)[Safe Start Phase 2](#)

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## Resources for Businesses and Community Organizations

*Last updated June 30, 2020 at 4:30 pm*

On May 1, Governor Inslee outlined his phased ["Safe Start" approach](#) for resuming recreational, social, and business activities. To support the business community in their reopening efforts, a Whatcom County [COVID Employer Support Task Force](#) was established.

The Task Force works within the framework of [Washington's Safe Start](#) approach for reopening businesses and develops a set of best practices and guidelines for ensuring businesses have measures in place to protect their employees, customers, and clients from the risk of infection with COVID-19. We're all in this together and we're here to support you by providing you with the most up-to-date guidance and resources to help in your planning efforts.

### Resources for All Businesses and Community Organizations

A lot of information exists to help businesses reopen, so we've created a single place to connect you to the best resources we've found to guide you through reopening.

The information below is applicable to all types of businesses, with information for specific businesses listed further down. This webpage is updated frequently. Check back soon for more tips and tools from the COVID Employer Support Task Force.

# Tips and Tools for Implementing COVID-19 Guidance



All businesses and organizations have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law, and comply with COVID-19 work site-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Jay Inslee's [COVID-19 Reopening Guidance for Businesses and Workers](#), and the Washington State Department of Health [Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations](#).

When Whatcom County enters Phase 3, ALL businesses will be required to have a "Safe Work Plan", aka a "Safe Start Plan". This template can help you create your plan - or ensure that your existing plan meets the current guidelines.

Figuring out how to implement the State guidance within your own business or organization can be challenging. In May of 2020, the 140 member Whatcom County's COVID Employer Support Task Force worked to try and simplify the basic concepts and share tips and tools as widely as possible.

This document will be updated as new information emerges. The most current version is available on the [Whatcom County Health Department website](#), along with other useful materials.

Guidance	Suggestions for Implementation
Adopt a written health and safety plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fill in the <a href="#">Washington State Phase 3 Safe Start Plan Template</a>.</li></ul>
Designate one COVID monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● It is best if there is one person who has responsibility for monitoring implementation of guidance, updating the plan, maintaining supplies, screening employees, and communicating with employees.</li><li>● Have a single point of contact for the Health Dept. to reach your business for contact tracing of staff, volunteers, or clients/customers. Whoever is in charge of HR is usually the best person to assign to this role.</li></ul>
Display visible signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Post visible signage at all entry points and throughout the workplace for both customers and staff. Signage should state shared expectations (e.g. masks and distancing) and responsibilities (including proper hygiene &amp; sanitization, and information for reporting concerns). See samples from <a href="#">WhatcomTogether.org</a>, <a href="#">CDC</a>, and <a href="#">Governor Inslee</a>.</li></ul>
Reduce risk for people more	<u>Vulnerable Employees &amp; Volunteers</u>



# WHATCOM TOGETHER: Safer. Stronger. Together. Campaign



In coordination with the Port,  
Chambers, Downtown Business  
Associations, Cities

**whatcomtogether.org**  
#WHATCOMTOGETHER



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department



**SAFER.  
STRONGER.  
TOGETHER.**

*Your health  
and safety is  
our priority.*



Whatcom County, WA  
**REGIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIP**

Regional Strength Through Economic Diversity

# RESOURCES



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Essential Safe Start Resources for Businesses and Community Organizations have been developed for you by the Whatcom County Health Department to keep your business safe!

[Access this important information here.](#)

## Downloads

These files are available to use on your business or website.



## Downloads

These files are available to use on your business or website.



large poster

**SIZE:** 17 in. x 11 in.

**FILE FORMAT:** PDF

*You can place these wherever they will be most visible and helpful.*

**DOWNLOAD**



mask required here – free masks available poster

**SIZE:** 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

**FILE FORMAT:** PDF

*This helps reinforce the state requirements and lets customers know a free mask is available if they don't have one.*

**DOWNLOAD**

# CONTACT



**SAFER.  
STRONGER.  
TOGETHER.**

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## Drop us a line!

Have a question or comment? Contact us by completing the form below.

FULL NAME\*

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION

# What's Next?

**Updates and Presentations** to Task Force, PHAB, County Council, and other partners will continue.

**Whatcom Together Forums** – Webinars with Task Force Members and Project Partners sharing tips. Sessions will be recorded and can be accessed through the [Whatcomtogether.org](http://Whatcomtogether.org) website.

**First Forum coming up on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am**

# SAFER. STRONGER. TOGETHER.

This is the first in a series of virtual community forums created to support businesses and organizations in Whatcom County. Together, we can share resources and ideas to keep our community healthy while we build consumer confidence and reopen our economy.



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Department



## “Let’s Talk About Masks” JULY 10, 11am-12pm

*What do we say when a customer is upset? How can we set our employees up for success? Join us for a conversation about how to talk about masks in our businesses.*

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 884 6344 2777**

*This event is brought to you by the Whatcom County Health Dept. and the COVID Employer Support Task Force (ESTF). The ESTF has 140 members from businesses and organizations representing diverse sectors of the local economy.*

For more information about the “Safer. Stronger. Together.” campaign, please visit [WHATCOMTOGETHER.ORG](http://WHATCOMTOGETHER.ORG)



# Thank you!



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
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## Any Questions?

### Here is how you can help:

- Attend **Whatcom Together** Forums
- Share the Campaign materials