

PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**APPLYING FOR VARIANCE UNDER GOVERNOR INSLEE'S
SAFE START WASHINGTON PLAN TO MOVE TO PHASE 2**

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and the confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu declared a State of Emergency in Whatcom County due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a state of pandemic due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency due to COVID-19, and on March 22, 2020 a Major Disaster was declared for the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee imposed a "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" Order throughout Washington State prohibiting all people in Washington State from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants, and all non-essential businesses in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a Proclamation modifying his "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" Order, with a phased-in approach to re-open Washington, which will increase the number of Whatcom County residents and frequency of their encounters with non-household members, and will increase their risk of exposure to persons with infectious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, the Governor outlined circumstances under which counties that meet certain criteria could apply for a variance to allow them to move to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Washington approach, and revised that approach on May 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Under the revised Whatcom County meets the criteria for Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Public Health Officer Dr. Greg Stern has reviewed the current status of COVID-19 in Whatcom County, as well as the plan for reopening, and has provided a signed recommendation to request a variance to implement all Phase 2 modifications; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Health Board voted on _____ to move forward with a variance request submission to implement all Phase 2 modifications determining that it is in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS, necessary plans and resources have been demonstrated and documented for inclusion with a variance application, including the following:

1. Plans and identified resources making COVID-19 testing available and accessible to everyone in the county with symptoms consistent with COVID-19
2. The number of reported COVID-19 tests performed by week over the past three weeks, as well as the number of negative and positive test results for this period

3. Whatcom County's plans and resources to continue performing case investigation and contact tracing
4. Plans and resources to house people in isolation or quarantine who do not have a home of wish to isolate or quarantine outside of their home if it becomes necessary
5. Plans to provide needed services to people in isolation and quarantine that these individuals could not otherwise obtain without going into the community (e.g., food, medications, etc.)
6. Plans to rapidly responded to outbreaks in congregate care settings and workplaces

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby approves moving forward with a variance application to be submitted to the Washington state Department of Health that would allow Whatcom County to implement all Phase 2 modifications.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2020.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Barry Buchanan, Chair

Rud Browne, Councilmember

Tyler Byrd, Councilmember

Todd Donovan, Councilmember

Ben Elenbaas, Councilmember

Carol Frazey, Councilmember

Kathy Kershner, Councilmember

Attest:

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Approved as to form:

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney