

2 **PROPOSED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
3 **INTRODUCTION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

4  
5 **RESOLUTION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

6  
7 **APPLYING FOR VARIANCE UNDER GOVERNOR INSLEE’S**  
8 **SAFE START WASHINGTON PLAN TO MOVE TO PHASE 2**

9  
10 **WHEREAS,** on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a  
11 State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak  
12 in the United States and the confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington  
13 state; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS,** on March 10, 2020, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu declared a  
16 State of Emergency in Whatcom County due to COVID-19; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS,** on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a state of  
19 pandemic due to COVID-19; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS,** on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National  
22 Emergency due to COVID-19, and on March 22, 2020 a Major Disaster was declared for the  
23 State of Washington; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS,** on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee imposed a “Stay Home – Stay  
26 Healthy” Order throughout Washington State prohibiting all people in Washington State  
27 from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings of  
28 any kind regardless of the number of participants, and all non-essential businesses in  
29 Washington State; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS,** on May 4, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a Proclamation modifying his  
32 “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” Order, with a phased-in approach to re-open Washington,  
33 which will increase the number of Whatcom County residents and frequency of their  
34 encounters with non-household members, and will increase their risk of exposure to persons  
35 with infectious COVID-19; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS,** on May 19, 2020, the Governor outlined circumstances under which  
38 counties that meet certain criteria could apply for a variance to allow them to move to Phase  
39 2 of the Safe Start Washington approach, and revised that approach on May 29, 2020; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS,** Under the revised Whatcom County meets the criteria for Phase 2; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS,** Whatcom County Public Health Officer Dr. Greg Stern has reviewed the  
44 current status of COVID-19 in Whatcom County, as well as the plan for reopening, and has  
45 provided a signed recommendation to request a variance to implement all Phase 2  
46 modifications; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS,** necessary plans and resources have been demonstrated and documented  
49 for inclusion with a variance application, including the following:

- 50  
51 1. Plans and identified resources making COVID-19 testing available and accessible to  
52 everyone in the county with symptoms consistent with COVID-19  
53 2. The number of reported COVID-19 tests performed by week over the past three weeks,  
54 as well as the number of negative and positive test results for this period  
55 3. Whatcom County’s plans and resources to continue performing case investigation and  
56 contact tracing  
57 4. Plans and resources to house people in isolation or quarantine who do not have a home  
58 or wish to isolate or quarantine outside of their home if it becomes necessary

- 1 5. Plans to provide needed services to people in isolation and quarantine that these  
2 individuals could not otherwise obtain without going into the community (e.g., food,  
3 medications, etc.)  
4 6. Plans to rapidly responded to outbreaks in congregate care settings and workplaces  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Health Board chooses to move forward with a  
7 variance application to implement all Phase 2 modifications determining that it is in the  
8 public's best interest.  
9

10 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Health Board hereby  
11 approves moving forward with a variance application to be submitted to the Washington state  
12 Department of Health that would allow Whatcom County to implement all Phase 2  
13 modifications.  
14

15 **APPROVED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.**  
16

17  
18 WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH BOARD  
19 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
20

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Barry Buchanan, Chair  
23

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Rud Browne, Health Board Member  
26

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Tyler Byrd, Health Board Member  
29

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Todd Donovan, Health Board Member  
32

33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Ben Elenbaas, Health Board Member  
35

36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 Carol Frazey, Health Board Member  
38

39 \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Kathy Kershner, Health Board Member  
41

42 Attest:  
43

44 \_\_\_\_\_  
45 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Board  
46

47  
48 Approved as to form:  
49

50 \_\_\_\_\_  
51 Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
52  
53