

2 **PROPOSED BY:** _____
3 **INTRODUCTION DATE:** JUNE 2, 2020

4
5 **RESOLUTION NO.** _____

6
7 **APPLYING 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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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41 **WHEREAS,** on May 29, 2020, the Governor announced the end of the “Stay Home –
42 Stay Healthy” Order and outlined new metrics and criteria for counties to move to Phase 2;
43 and

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45 **WHEREAS,** Whatcom County meets the criteria for Phase 2, using case count data
46 from May 16 – May 30, 2020; and

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48 **WHEREAS,** Whatcom County Public Health Officer Dr. Greg Stern has reviewed the
49 current status of COVID-19 in Whatcom County, as well as the plan for reopening, and has
50 provided a signed recommendation to request the State to allow implementation of all Phase
51 2 modifications; and

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53 **WHEREAS,** necessary plans and resources have been demonstrated and documented
54 for inclusion in the application, including the following:

- 55
56 1. County epidemiology, including populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19
57 and cases without an epidemiologic link to other cases
58 2. Plans and identified resources making COVID-19 testing available and accessible to
59 everyone in the county with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including for
60 residents who are low income, have no insurance, or are underserved

- 1 3. Speed in which residents are tested following the onset of symptoms
- 2 4. The number of reported COVID-19 tests performed by week over the past four weeks,
- 3 as well as the number of negative and positive test results for this period
- 4 5. Whatcom County's plans and resources to continue performing case investigation and
- 5 contact tracing
- 6 6. Plans and resources to house people in isolation or quarantine who do not have a home
- 7 of wish to isolate or quarantine outside of their home if it becomes necessary
- 8 7. Plans to provide needed services to people in home isolation and quarantine that these
- 9 individuals could not otherwise obtain without going into the community (e.g., food,
- 10 medications, etc.)
- 11 8. Plans to rapidly responded to outbreaks in congregate care settings and workplaces
- 12 9. Number and epidemiologic nature of outbreaks in the last four weeks
- 13 10. Plans to protect disproportionately affected populations, including low income
- 14 communities and communities of color

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Health Board chooses to move forward with an
17 application to implement all Phase 2 modifications determining that it is in the public's best
18 interest.

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20 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Health Board hereby
21 approves moving forward with an application to be submitted to the Washington state
22 Department of Health that would allow Whatcom County to implement all Phase 2
23 modifications.

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25 **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2020.

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28 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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31 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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34 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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36 /s/ Karen N. Frakes

37 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

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