

Public Health Advisory Board
COVID Employer Support Task Force
Update - July 7th 2020



Whatcom County
HEALTH
Department



Task Force Purpose

**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**

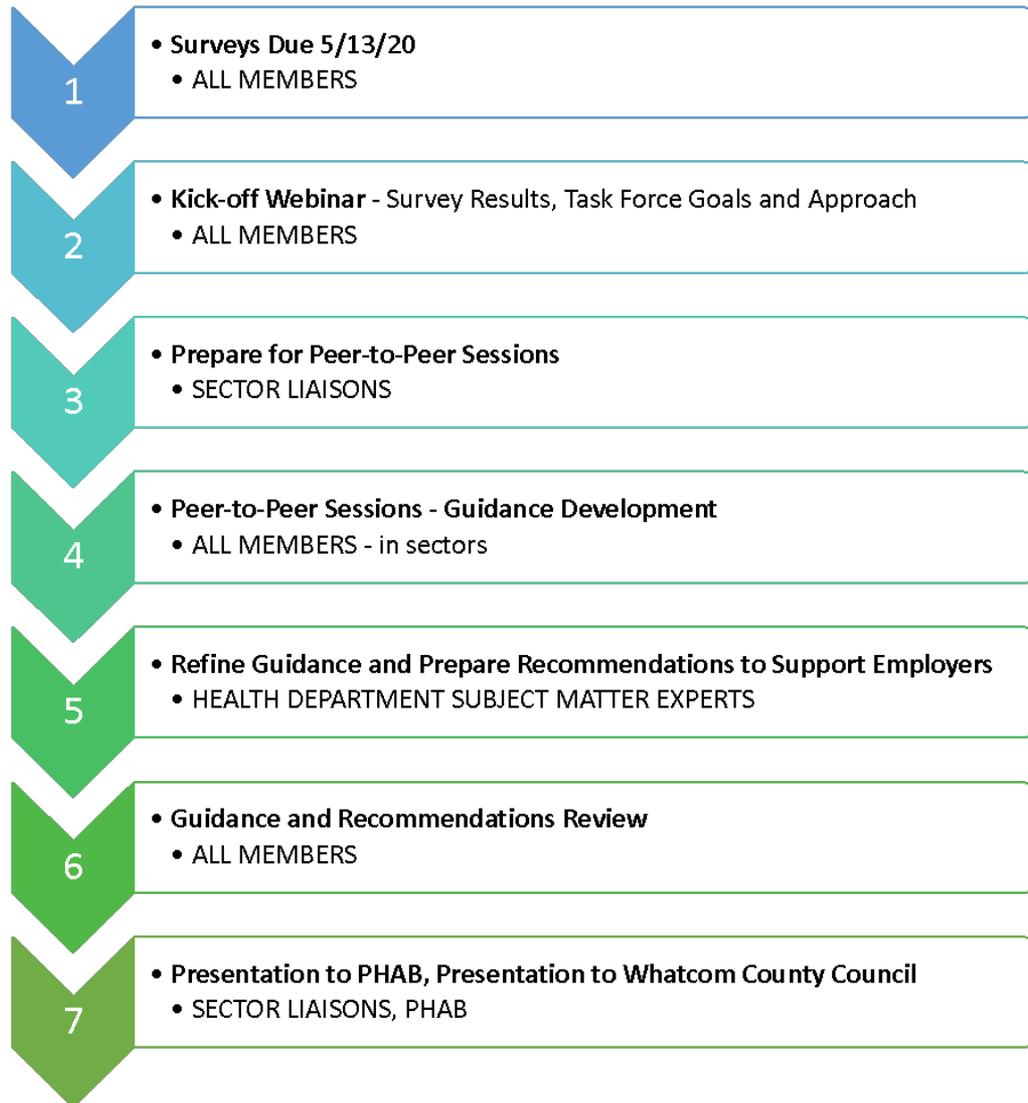
This is not a regulatory process. This is our community coming together to help each other be safe and feel safe.

Task Force: 139 members in 18 sectors

- 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

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

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

- 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

- **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

- **“Whatcom Together” Toolkit**
 - Guidance Sheets**
 - Tips and Tools**
 - Campaign signage**
- **WCHD webpage** informed by the needs of customers for information and resources



WHATCOM TOGETHER: Safer. Stronger. Together. Campaign



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

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 sharing tips. Sessions will be recorded and can be accessed through the [Whatcomtogether.org](https://www.whatcomtogether.org) website.



FIRST FORUM 7/9 or 7/10

- Campaign Launch!
- How to talk about masks with your customers



Thank you!



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Any Questions?

Here is how you can help:

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