

# GREATER COLUMBIA ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH

## Leadership Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 21, 2020 | 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Teleconference

ATTENDANCE			
<b>Committee Members</b>  <small>Board Member: Name Called-in: Name* Absent: Name</small>	Jill Whitman*	Cathy Pipes*	Holly Siler*
	Alana Pumphrey*	Courtney Ward*	Jac Davies*
	Allan Fischer*	<i>Dan Ferguson*</i>	Jean Murrow*
	Annamelia Scarlett*	Deb Watson*	Jill Adcock*
	Barbara Mead*	Theresa Adkinson*	Jocelyn Pedrosa*
	Ben Beck-Coon*	Dinah LeDuc*	Joel Chavez*
	Bevan Briggs*	Everett Maroon*	John Christenson*
	Susan Campbell*	Frances Chvatal*	John Roach*
	Cary Cole*	Greg Lane*	Jonathan Smith*
	Cassie Heimgartner*	Hayley Middleton*	Dr. Patrick Jones*
	Joshua Jackson*	Sarah Lehr*	Minnie Smith*
	Joyce Newsom*	<i>Les Stahlnecker*</i>	Monica Guillen*
	Juan Correa*	Lindsay Engh*	Myrna Ridenour*
	Katherine Towbridge*	Lindsey Williams*	Penny Bell*
	Kelly Pease*	Lisa Bugas*	Rebecca Grohs*
	<i>Kendra Palomarez*</i>	Lisa Pallas*	<i>Rhonda Hauff*</i>
	Kirk Williamson*	Lori Mattson*	Rocky Lilienthal*
	Dr. Larry Jecha*	<i>Martha Lanman*</i>	Roman Pinal*
	LeAnne Turnbull*	Meghan DeBolt*	<i>Sandra Suarez*</i>
	Sara Clark*	Toni Clayton*	Whitney Garrison*
Cheri Snowwhite*	Viktoriya Broyan*		
Lance Snowwhite*	Wally Lee*		
<b>GCACH Staff</b>	Becky Kolln	Carol Moser	Chelsea Chapman
	Diane Halo	Laurel Avila	Lauren Noble

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	Martin Sanchez Sam Werdel	Rachael Guess Wes Luckey	Ruben Peralta Brittany FoxStading
<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>			
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Dr. Patrick Jones	Dr. Patrick Jones from Eastern Washington University welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He provided an overview of meeting's purpose which is to discuss economic revival in the Greater Columbia region following the pandemic. This is in an effort to provide upstream determinants of health for what is and has been going on during the shutdown.		
<b>DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>			
<b>Unemployment in Greater Columbia Region</b> Dr. Patrick Jones	<p>Dr. Jones provided a presentation on the unemployment numbers by sector in the four largest GCACH counties which account for 85% of the GCACH population (Yakima, Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla) due to the pandemic and ensuing state policies.</p> <p>Among the most heavily hit sectors in Benton-Franklin Counties are construction, accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, and retail trade. For seven weeks of initial claims for unemployment there has been approximately 20,600 jobs lost.</p> <p>For Yakima County, it is health care and social assistance, retail trade, accommodation and food services, and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting. There have been approximately 18,100 jobs lost.</p> <p>For Walla Walla, it is accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and manufacturing. There have been approximately 3,400 jobs lost.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implications of this industry-by-industry look</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of jobs over all 20 sectors in the 4 counties lost over 7 weeks ending in May 2 = ~ 54,400</li> <li>• Or, as share of number employed in 2018: ~ 20%</li> <li>• Caveat: some of the initial claims in weeks 6 &amp; 7 include those not a part of the unemployment insurance system typically, so the ratio may be (slightly) overstated</li> <li>• Caveat: jobs in a few industries have climbed (grocery stores)</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>		

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### Quick assessment of this short-run outlook

- This tally looks at *jobs located in* the 4 counties not residents
- Results would not be as dire if, instead of *jobs*, *payroll* were used in analysis
  - Equivalently, the impacts disproportionately affect low-wage workers
- Nonetheless, the worst economic situation since the Great Depression
- My hope – certain sectors (construction, healthcare, manufacturing) shed these losses over the next 2 months



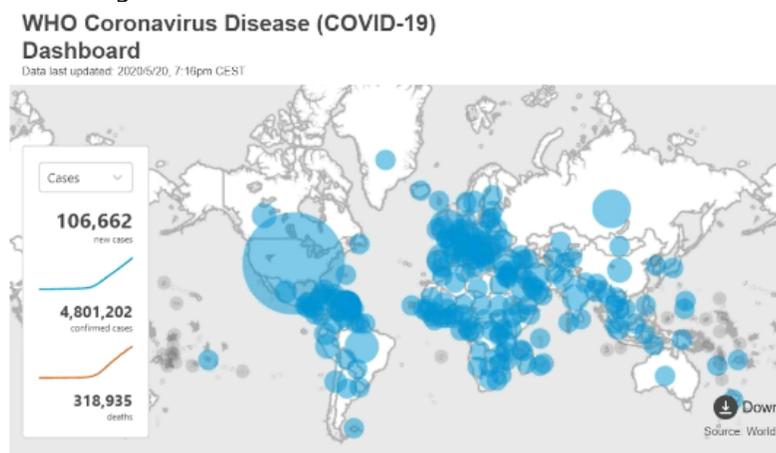
Questions and comments included:

- Rhonda from YNHS mentioned the fraudulent unemployment claims and the impact on these numbers. Dr. Jones did not have information on that. He did touch on the fact that there is a filter for “sector not disclosed” in the data set, which is becoming larger and larger and assumes that fraudulent claims may be lumped into that category. He does know it’s going to be awhile before we have those insights.

**Greater Columbia Region: COVID-19 Overview**  
Wes Luckey

Wes Luckey, Deputy Director with GCACH, shared numbers on COVID-19.

Wes shared a slide with a graph from the World Health Organization. This slide shows the spread of COVID-19 around the globe.

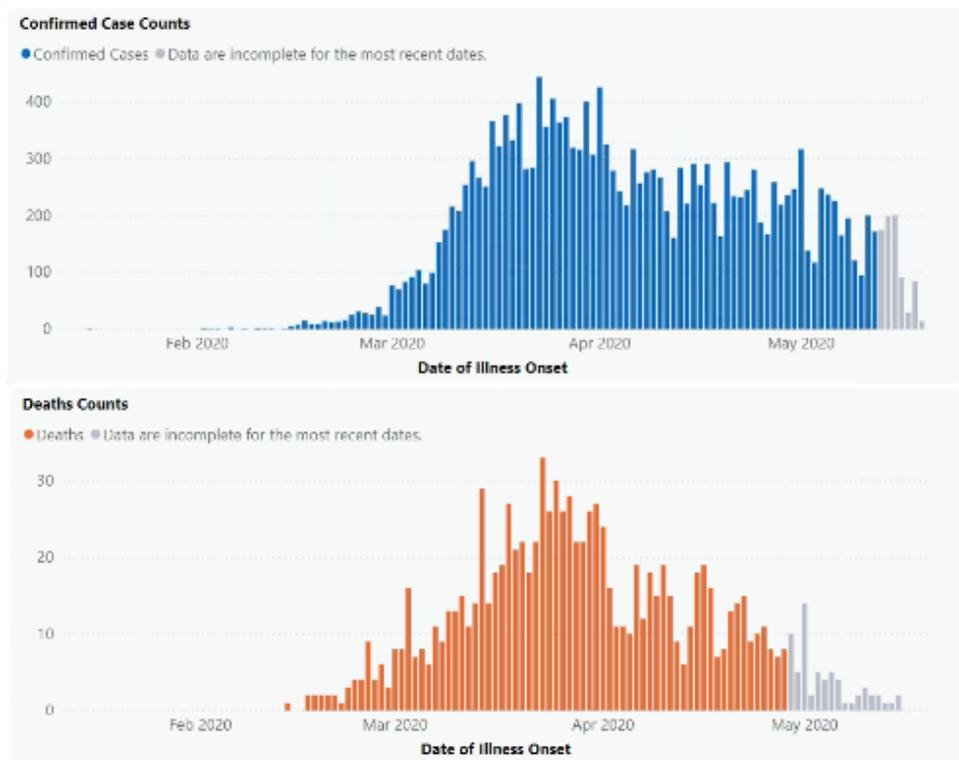


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At more than 1.5 million, the US leads the world in terms of the total number of COVID-19 cases. The pandemic is still highly active. Russia, Brazil, United Kingdom and Italy have a high number of cases as well.

By June, we should expect around 113,000 deaths cases in this country. FEMA also projects approximately 3,000 deaths per day by June 1, 2020.

The map below shows the confirmed case and death counts in the United States.



The GCACH cumulative case rate and cumulative death rate are higher than the state average and higher than every ACH except HealthierHere (death rate).

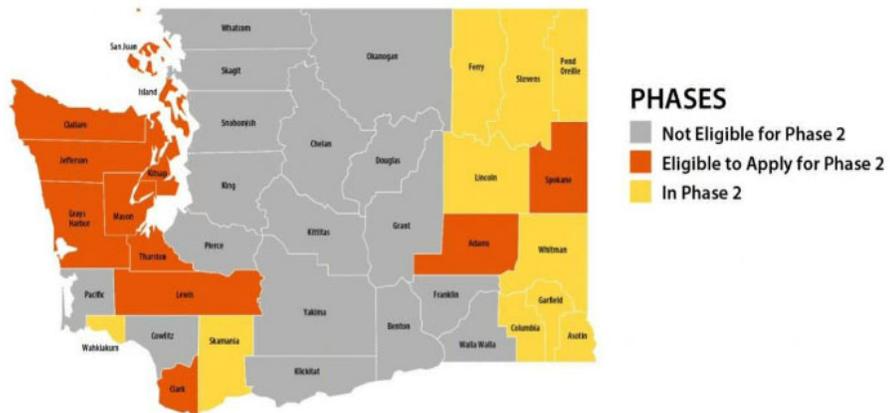
Wes briefly reviewed the phases leading to the restart of Washington State’s economy.

- Phase 1 entails some outdoor recreation, but continues to ban large gatherings. The following industries can reopen: construction, landscaping, automobile sales and curbside pick-up for retail sales

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- Phase 2 allows outdoor recreation with five or less individuals present. It also permits retailers, real estate, hair salons, barbers to open. Restaurants can also reopen. Provided they can accommodate half of their capacity with tables that seat no more than five people.

The following counties have entered phase two:



Questions and comments included:

- Some of these diagnoses also because they have other diseases, but they are passing due to COVID-19. What's your thoughts on that?
- What happens if a county votes to open but after opening, lots of cases pop up?

**COVID-19 Plan (Construction Industry)**

Greg Lane,  
Building Industry Association

Greg Lane, from the Building Industry Association spoke to construction restart and jobsite safety requirements.

Washington was the only state in western US to have the stay at home order for construction which took the construction industry by surprise.

Decided early on to focus on safety protocols for construction, and work that was considered negligible or had a low transmission risk. A working group came up with the entire list of guidelines and their process became the model for discussion with other industries. Their guidelines became the template for other industries allowed to reopen.

Jobsite safety requirements include:

- Jobsite Safety Plan
- COVID-19 Site Supervisor
- Safety Training

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Distancing</li> <li>- PPE</li> <li>- Sanitation/Cleanliness</li> <li>- Employee Health Screening</li> <li>- Employee Health Policies</li> </ul> <p>Under phase 2, all construction activities will be authorized and all new construction can restart. Goal is to keep the community and employees safe during this process.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Plan (Public Health Industry)</b>          Meghan DeBolt,          Walla Walla          County          Department of          Community          Health</p>	<p>Meghan DeBolt, Director of Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) spoke to the COVID-19 Report focusing on Tyson fresh meats.</p> <p>Meghan shared the timeline for COVID-19 cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April 1<sup>st</sup>: First Walla Walla County case reported</li> <li>- April 6<sup>th</sup>: Environmental Health Team met with Tyson to discuss their current cases and mitigation measures</li> <li>- April 13<sup>th</sup>: Site visit from DCH</li> <li>- April 17<sup>th</sup>: DCH sent a robust mitigation plan that is reinforced by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries guidance (which was released on April 16<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>- April 21<sup>st</sup>: Site visit from DCH – ALL required mitigation efforts had been implemented.</li> </ul> <p>The Tyson plans had great sanitizing and cleaning of the facility. Some things the plant needed to work on is employee education, symptom screening and case monitoring, and physical distancing.</p> <p>The DCH planned to take a 4-prong approach to monitor the outbreak and the implementation of prevention and mitigation measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Onsite inspections by DCH twice per week at random, unscheduled times.</li> <li>- Case investigation reports from cases in Walla Walla and Benton and Franklin Health District</li> <li>- Complaints/Reports from Labor and Industries</li> <li>- Epidemiological curve of daily case count and percentage of infected workforce</li> </ul> <p>On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tyson, Benton Franklin Health District and DOH decided to test all employees at the plant and temporarily close the facility. During this time, they tested over 1,345 team members and 19 USDA inspectors. Results were as follows:</p>

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	<table border="1" data-bbox="548 352 1304 800"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Final Test Results</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Positive Results</b></td> <td>151</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    <b>Walla Walla County</b></td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    <b>Benton Franklin Counties</b></td> <td>137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    <b>Yakima County</b></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    <b>Umatilla County</b></td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Negative Results</b></td> <td>1178</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Tests</b></td> <td>1329</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Tyson worked to notify all negative team members. 276 tested positive for COVID-19, or about 20%. The Harvest floors saw the most number of cases. Positive employees were able to return to work after seven (7) symptom-free days.</p> <p>Tyson reopened on May 5<sup>th</sup>. During the closure, Tyson hired a remote medical team, interpreter and went through deep cleaning and sanitation procedures. Now that Tyson is reopened, they are conducting temperature checks for all team members before every shift, providing mandatory protective face masks to all team members, and practicing social distancing measures including physical barriers between workstations and in break rooms.</p>		Final Test Results	<b>Positive Results</b>	151	<b>Walla Walla County</b>	8	<b>Benton Franklin Counties</b>	137	<b>Yakima County</b>	2	<b>Umatilla County</b>	4	<b>Negative Results</b>	1178	<b>Total Tests</b>	1329
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<p><b>COVID-19 Plan (Public Health Industry)</b>          Dr. Larry Jecha/Martha Lanman, Walla Walla and Columbia Counties</p>	<p>Dr. Larry Jecha from Walla Walla and Columbia Counties spoke on the readiness of phase 2 in the Greater Columbia Region.</p> <p>We have some of the lowest and some of the highest rates in the state. Before reopening, each organization must have case and contact tracing procedures in place, the National Guard will be available for counties needing help with this.</p> <p>Columbia County has moved to phase 2 about two weeks ago. Martha Lanman shared information regarding how the reopening process is going. They have successfully made it two weeks without any COVID-19 cases and are hoping to move to phase 3 next week. Challenges of moving to phase 2 included outside visitors and campers.</p> <p>Meghan DeBolt shared that Walla Walla County is working on submitting request to move to phase 2. She is thankful to have the right amount of funding and training to conduct case and</p>																

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	<p>contact tracing in the county. Since COVID-19, Walla Walla County has added staff members to meet the necessary criteria to move to phase 2.</p> <p>Dr. Jecha spoke to the challenges of the variety of situations in the region and the importance of social determinants of health. It is going to really impact us in the future and will have to look at that when recovery is in force. How to protect the more vulnerable population will be critical.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Plan (Agriculture Industry)</b>          Roman Pinal,          United Farm Workers</p>	<p>Roman Pinal from United Farm Workers provided insight from an ag industry perspective.</p> <p>Farmers and food workers taking the brunt of the pandemic. We can all appreciate the fear that essential workers work under. Particularly in the farm workers there has been a history of exclusion. Excluded from overtime, workers comp (injuries), unemployment; patchwork of protections that exists state-by-state. We need them or our food supply is at risk.</p> <p>On the “best of times” side of the ledger, places like Chateau St. Michelle, these workers organized a union and ushered in worker protections; 5 weeks of vacation, paid sick leave, developed a respectful and trustful relationship with farm owners and management.</p> <p>Grapevine in farmworker communities is better than texting. Workers have built solidarity within their network. Alarmed with what they have heard and continue to hear.</p> <p>Agriculture workers live in close quarters, travel in close quarters and work in close quarters. Farm Workers are seeking more guidelines from Washington State. United Farm Workers concern – there is an unreliable flow of information and a tangled mess of inaccurate information. Some other concerns from Tyson workers: they will no longer provide masks for workers, workers have to provide their own. Others: bonus pay, hazard pay is structured around # of days worked, not hourly wages.</p> <p>Questions and comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you noticed an increase of U.S. citizen and green card holders seeking employment in agriculture and other food industries? Especially now that the unemployment rate is really high.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Response: We have not seen this trend in fact the few folks that do have the legal right to work are collecting the enhanced unemployment benefit and many are choosing to continue to collect as opposed to seek work in current ag job opportunities. We believe that a bill, currently in Congress, like the Farm Work Force modernization act would bring stability to our ag labor market.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>COVID-19 Plan (Statewide Recovery)</b></p>	<p>Allison Poulson from Better Health Together spoke to the safe start advisory group she is part of.</p> <p>There are three advisory groups:</p>

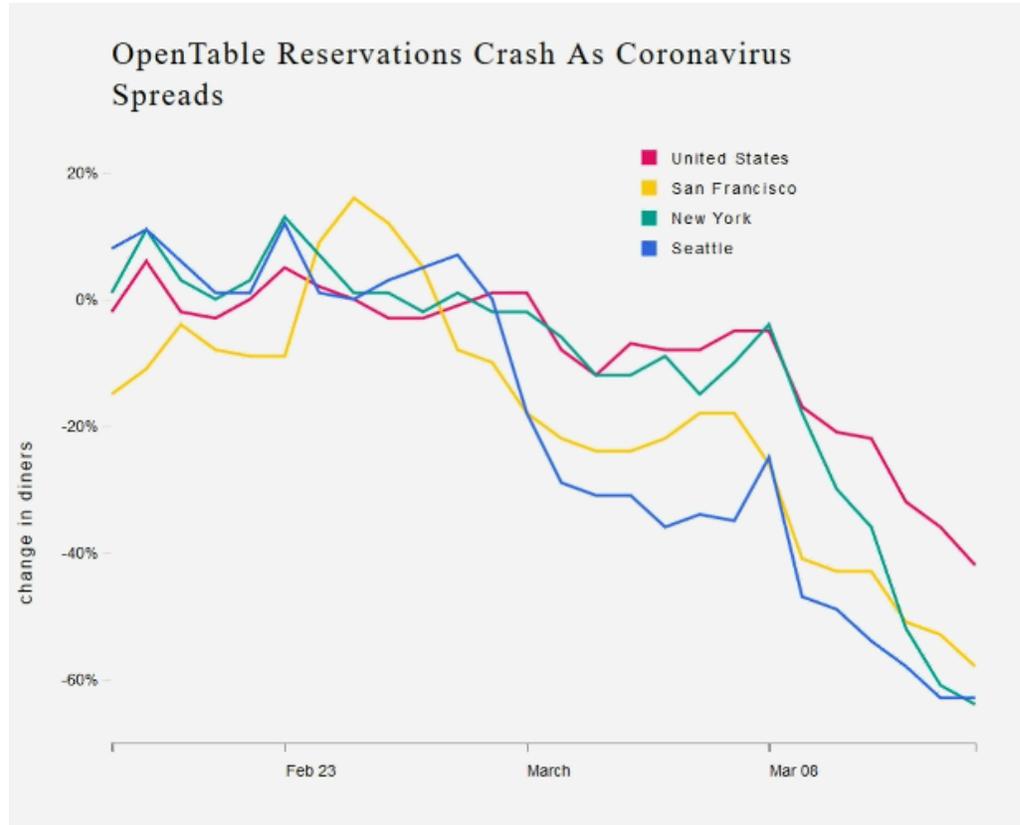
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<p>Alison Poulson, Better Health Together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe work and economic recovery group – helping the governor develop his economic recovery plan and provide guidance for maintaining health guidance standards</li> <li>- Social supports group – increasing the social services that are needed (food security, safe shelter and housing)</li> <li>- Public Health and Healthcare – testing efforts, preparing for a second wave, PPE distribution and how to most equitably distribute vaccines when they become available</li> </ul> <p>Impressed with the Governor’s interest for PH&amp;H group; took to health stories from Carlos Oliveras. Likely surge of behavioral health needs this fall that could result in suicide. BH system was taxed before COVID, and a greater surge this fall has everyone concerned.</p> <p>The governor has discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPE and manufacturing companies within WA State</li> <li>- Additional testing</li> <li>- Highly engaged in discussion, has asked a lot of questions, very assertive to get it figured out</li> </ul>
<p><b>COVID-19 Plan (Benton-Franklin Policy)</b> John Roach, WholeStory</p>	<p>John Roach spoke to the consumer’s perspective of reopening.</p> <p>If we waited one additional week for shut-down measures in March, we would have had around 160,000 more deaths. This sacrifice has been huge, but worth it!</p> <p>Important to understand the psychological and sociological factors impacting us. The response to the pandemic resulted in the fastest economic contraction in history happening over a period of weeks. Also a corresponding elevation of sense of community.</p> <p>Where we started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival of a silent virus with the potential to kill millions of Americans</li> <li>- Fastest economic contraction in history</li> <li>- Consumers or community?</li> <li>- People helping people</li> <li>- Prospect of meaningful government intervention</li> </ul> <p>Where we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 30 million people unemployed with inadequate safety net (greatest level of unemployment since the Great Depression)</li> <li>- Politicized polarization of the response</li> <li>- Huge disparities in access to health care</li> <li>- Weak federal-level pandemic health infrastructure (testing, tracing, PPE)</li> <li>- Increased understanding of virus confirming severity</li> <li>- Systemic inequities laid bare</li> </ul>

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Public health and economic health are inextricably connected. To think these are binary activities is a real problem, but it is prevalent in the way the conversation is framed.

The table shows below, that the decline in reservations made at restaurants started declining before the stay at home order was in place, not by the government lock-down. According to an IPSOS tv poll, the vast majority of Americans are not willing to undertake activities unless they feel safe.



**Panel Discussion**

Questions

- Dan Ferguson – is the public health system resourced enough to have collaborative conversations with the community in order to open up? Meghan DeBolt (Walla Walla County Department of Community Health): dependent on each local health jurisdiction and their relationship and capacity within the community.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lori Mattson (Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce): working with local health district on reopening. We are working on distributing and marketing guidelines for safely reopening—should be available next week.</li> <li>○ Kevin Martin (KVH): in Kittitas, the only direct outreach is with the Kittitas County Health Network. The only direct services provided by Public Health is a syringe exchange program</li> </ul> <p>Patrick's hope is that every county is in Phase II by June 18<sup>th</sup>!</p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM. Minutes taken by Lauren Noble. The recording for this meeting may be found here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSRhJZqzIxc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSRhJZqzIxc</a> .

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