



SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20-16

RESOLUTION SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION AND REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE TO THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROCEED TO PHASE 2 OF THE STATE'S REOPENING WASHINGTON PLAN

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25, *Stay Home, Stay Healthy*, which requires citizens to remain in their homes, except to conduct essential business; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* order required closure of all non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, Governor Inslee announced his *Safe Start Plan*, which implements a phased approach to re-opening all aspects of public life; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is currently in Phase 1 of the *Safe Start Plan*; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, Governor Inslee announced eligibility requirements for counties over 75,000 to move to Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 19, 2020, the Washington State Secretary of Health issued instructions for submittal of variance applications to the Governor's *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, counties that meet certain prescribed criteria may apply for a variance from said eligibility requirement; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, the Snohomish Health District became aware that revisions to the rules/instructions/criteria for variance applications will be revised during the upcoming weekend of May 29-31; and

WHEREAS, when the new rules/instructions/criteria are known, a determination can be made about whether Snohomish County will either automatically meet the criteria for moving to Phase 2, or to qualify for submission of a variance application; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish Health District has demonstrated testing capacity, established contact tracing and case investigation protocols, and has protections in place for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, local hospitals have capacity and the PPE necessary to combat the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer for Snohomish Health District has made a recommendation to the Board of Health dated May 29, 2020, to request a variance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to the continued economic and social viability of Snohomish County to move to Phase 2 of the *Safe Start Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Health of Snohomish Health District as follows:

1. The Board of Health hereby directs Health District staff to review all applicable rules/instructions/criteria for submission of a variance request to the State Department of Health (including, but not limited to, any new rules promulgated over the upcoming weekend of May 29-31 and beyond) to determine if the Health District qualifies for a variance.
2. The Board of Health hereby approves and adopts the recommendation of the Health Officer dated May 29, 2020, which is incorporated herein by this reference.
3. Subject to meeting the variance rules/instructions/criteria, and consistent with the recommendation of the Health Officer, the Board of Health hereby authorizes the application and submission of a request for a variance from the Washington State Department of Health to move to Phase 2 of the *Safe Start Plan*.
4. Health District staff is further authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate the variance application, including but not limited, to supplying all data and documentation supporting the application and request.
5. Following adoption and execution, this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the Snohomish County Council.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH of SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020 by a vote of \_\_\_ members voting yes, \_\_\_ members voting nay, \_\_\_ members abstaining, and \_\_\_ members absent.

ATTEST:

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Stephanie Wright, Chair  
 Board of Health

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Shawn Frederick, MBA  
 Administrative Officer