

April 30, 2021

**CATEGORY:**                   **Announcement**

**RELEASE DATE:**           **For Immediate Release**

**REGARDING:**               **Ferry County Adjusted to Phase 2 Under Roadmap to Recovery Plan**

Within Washington State, the [Roadmap to Recovery](#) plan has been established as a phased reopening based on a county-by-county evaluation. For counties with a population of less than 50,000 the following metrics are used as indicators of COVID-19 risk:

Indicator	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>New COVID-19 cases over 14 days</b>	>175	100-175	<100
<b>New COVID-19 hospitalizations over 7 days</b>	>5	3-5	<3

The next statewide review period is scheduled for May 4 and will utilize data from earlier in April. While most counties will be adjusted in their phase through this normal scheduled process, the Roadmap to Recovery plan also allows for adjustments to be made on a county basis as conditions warrant.

Within the last two weeks, Ferry County has experienced a [sharp increase in new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations](#). At present, there have been 106 cases reported in Ferry County residents since April 12. Seven people have required transport to other hospitals and there have been additional people hospitalized. There has been one reported COVID related death as of this morning.

Ferry County Hospital continues to experience a significant increase in ER visits as a result of the rapid spread and severity of patients' symptoms. Ferry County Hospital's small facility has limited space and their dedicated staff is at capacity. In addition, neighboring local and regional hospitals have been very busy and are limited in ability to receive these patient transfers. Emergency Medical Services transport remains a challenge as well. As a result, Ferry County Hospital is working with Washington Department of Health's (DOH) COVID Response Team for medical staffing assistance, in-person home monitoring, coordination with regional hospitals, and logistical assistance. Ferry County Hospital may need to divert non-COVID admissions to maintain staffing and bed availability to care for patient's suffering from more severe COVID symptoms while awaiting transfer out of the area.

Ferry County has the highest case rates adjusted for population in Washington State and ranks among the highest nationally. In the most impacted community of Republic, many businesses, agencies, and

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  - Environmental Health Phone: 509-684-2262**, Fax: 509-684-8506

- Ferry County** - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166  
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- Pend Oreille County** - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156  
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governmental offices have had to close their doors to the public and are using modified practices aimed at reducing disease transmission.

**Given these conditions and in consultation with the DOH, Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) is moving Ferry County into Phase 2 effective immediately.** Such action is necessary now to reduce transmission and keep within the capacity of the local medical system to provide care. NETCHD will continue to monitor both case rates and hospitalizations closely for the next three weeks and update the Roadmap to Recovery phase as conditions warrant. As soon as these important metrics stabilize and see improvement, Ferry County will move back into Phase 3.

A move into Phase 2 reduces the size of gatherings, occupancy within establishments, sporting events, along with other restrictions as noted in the [Healthy Washington Phased Chart](#). While this move into Phase 2 is difficult, it is also critical to help curve disease transmission rates in the right direction. We ask that Ferry County residents and organizations help by implementing the safeguards under Phase 2.

As a community, let's work together and take precautions we know work-

- Getting vaccinated (schedule your appointment at [www.netchd.org](http://www.netchd.org) or 509-684-2262 opt #4). These vaccinations are the best tool we have at reducing illness and hospitalizations.
- Wearing masks in public spaces, even if fully vaccinated.
- Staying home when sick and getting tested for COVID-19.
- Maintaining a social distance of 6' around non-household individuals.
- Avoid large gatherings.

## Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery

Activities	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Indoor</b>	Prohibited	Max 5 people from outside your household, limit 2 households	Max 10 people from outside your household
<b>Social and At-Home Gathering Size — Outdoor</b>	Max 10 people from outside your household, limit 2 households	Max 15 people from outside your household, limit 2 households	Max 50 people
<b>Worship Services</b>	Indoor maximum 25% capacity	Indoor maximum 25% capacity	Indoor maximum 50% capacity
<b>Retail Stores</b> <small>(includes farmers' markets, grocery and convenience stores, pharmacies)</small>	Maximum 25% of capacity, encourage curbside pick-up	Maximum 25% of capacity, encourage curbside pick-up	Maximum 50% of capacity, encourage curbside pick-up
<b>Professional Services</b>	Remote work strongly encouraged, 25% capacity otherwise.	Remote work strongly encouraged, 25% capacity otherwise.	Remote work strongly encouraged, 50% capacity otherwise.
<b>Personal Services</b>	Indoor maximum 25% capacity.	Indoor maximum 25% capacity.	Indoor maximum 50% capacity.
<b>Eating and Drinking Establishments</b> <small>(establishments not offering food remain closed)</small>	Indoor dining prohibited. Outdoor or open-air dining, end alcohol service/delivery at 11PM, max 6 per table, limit 2 households per table	Indoor dining available 25% capacity, end alcohol service/delivery at 11PM. Outdoor or open-air dining available, max 6 per table, limit 2 households per table	Indoor dining available 50% capacity, end alcohol service/delivery at 12AM. Outdoor or open-air dining available, max 10 people per table
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	Ceremonies are limited to a total of no more than 30 people. Indoor receptions, wakes, or similar gatherings in conjunction with such ceremonies are prohibited.	Ceremonies and indoor receptions, wakes, or similar gatherings in conjunction with such ceremonies are permitted and must follow the appropriate venue requirements. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply.	Ceremonies and indoor receptions, wakes, or similar gatherings in conjunction with such ceremonies are permitted and must follow the appropriate venue requirements. If food or drinks are served, the eating and drinking requirements above apply.
<b>Indoor Sports and Fitness Establishments</b> <small>(includes gyms, fitness organizations, indoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, indoor K-12 sports, indoor sports, indoor personal training, indoor dance, no-contact martial arts, gymnastics, climbing)</small>	Low risk and moderate risk sports permitted for practice and training only in stable groups of no more than 5 athletes. Appointment based fitness/training: less than 1 hour sessions, no more than 1 customer/athlete per room or per 500/sq. ft. for large facilities.	Low and moderate risk sports competitions permitted (no tournaments). High risk sports permitted for practice and training. Fitness and training and indoor sports maximum 25% capacity.	Sports competitions and tournaments allowed all risk categories. Fitness and training and indoor sports maximum 50% capacity. Showers allowed.
<b>Outdoor Sports and Fitness Establishments</b> <small>(includes fitness organizations, outdoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, outdoor parks and hiking trails, outdoor campfires, outdoor K-12 sports, outdoor sports, outdoor personal training, outdoor dance, outdoor motorsports)</small>	Low and moderate risk sports permitted for practice and training only (no tournaments). Outdoor guided activities, hunting, fishing, motorsports, parks, camping, hiking, biking, running, snow sports, permitted.	Low, moderate, and high-risk sports competitions allowed (no tournaments), maximum 200 including spectators.	Sports competitions and tournaments allowed all risk categories. Maximum spectators allowed 400 with capacity restriction depending on facility. Guided activities allowed without hard caps subject to restrictions.
<b>Indoor Entertainment Establishments</b> <small>(includes aquariums, indoor theaters, indoor arenas, indoor concert halls, indoor gardens, indoor museums, indoor bowling, indoor trampoline facilities, indoor cardrooms, indoor entertainment activities of any kind, indoor event spaces)</small>	Private rentals/tours for individual households of no more than 6 people permitted. General admission prohibited.	Maximum 25% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply.	Maximum 50% capacity or 400 people, whichever is less. If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply.
<b>Outdoor Entertainment Establishments</b> <small>(includes zoos, outdoor gardens, outdoor aquariums, outdoor theaters, outdoor stadiums, outdoor event spaces, outdoor arenas, outdoor concert venues, rodeos)</small>	Ticketed events only: Groups of 10, limit 2 households, timed ticketing required.	Groups of 15, limit 2 households per group, maximum 200 including spectators for events.	Walk-up tickets allowed with restrictions. Maximum spectators allowed 400 with capacity restriction depending on facility.

NOTE: Live entertainment is no longer prohibited but must follow guidance above for the appropriate venue. Long-term Care facilities, professional and collegiate sports remain governed by their current guidance/proclamations separate from this plan.