



Spokane County

OFFICE OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Josh Kerns, 1st District | Mary L. Kuney, 2nd District | Al French, 3rd District

June 17, 2020

Dr. Bob Lutz
Health Officer, Spokane Regional Health District
1101 W College Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Dr. Lutz,

The Spokane County Board of Commissioners requests that you take immediate action to protect not only the health and safety of Spokane County residents, but also the health of our region's economy. In partnership with our local health, medical and business communities, we respectfully request that you initiate the process to request Governor Jay Inslee and Washington State Secretary of Health, Dr. John Wiesman, move Spokane County to Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington Plan immediately.

The Board of County Commissioners has already allocated \$6 million of CARES Act funding to the Regional Health District and we are prepared to cover future needs as they arise. The Board of County Commissioners have allocated over \$2 million of CARES Act funds to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which will be made available to our small businesses, non-profits, County employees, and Courthouse visitors to help aid in the safe reopening of our community.

With the increase in awareness about COVID-19 and after consultation with many stakeholders in the health, business, and government sectors, we feel that the clear majority of businesses and hospitals in our community are ready for Phase 3. Our local businesses in particular are ready to follow strict guidelines for use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, and proper handwashing and sanitation practices as well as applicable safety plans.

Recognizing that our community is ready for Phase 3 is the next logical step to giving people their livelihoods back and getting thousands of Spokane County residents back to work. We wish to join our five neighboring counties as well as North Idaho who have already been approved for Phase 3 and Phase 4 respectively, thus improving the long-term outlook, not only for our economy and overall health of our community, but for that of the surrounding region.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this critical regional request.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners


AL FRENCH, Chair


JOSH KERNS, Vice Chair


MARY L. KUNEY, Commissioner