



UNIFIED COMMAND  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 2/14/2021

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**Walla Walla County Moved to Phase 2**

***Reminder to Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Keep our Community Safe***

WALLA WALLA, WA – In a letter from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) dated February 14, 2021, Walla Walla County was informed of an update to the South Central Region phase status. According to the letter, “after the region did not move to Phase 2 last week, it was brought to the attention of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) that a hospital in the region appeared to be incorrectly reporting its hospital admission data. Subsequently, DOH began working with the facility to review the submitted COVID-19 hospital admission data and confirmed that the facility was entering information incorrectly.”

Based upon the re-calculated hospital admission metric, DOH concluded that the region meets the required criteria and will advance to Phase 2 of the Governor’s [Roadmap to Recovery](#), effective today, February 14, 2021.

“I would like to thank everyone in Walla Walla County including our Department of Community Health, our partners in the South Central Region, other agencies and personnel who worked tirelessly to make it possible for us to move to Phase 2,” said Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins,

The DOH letter is attached for reference. For the latest COVID information, please watch our [website](#), and text COVIDWW to 888777.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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February 14, 2021

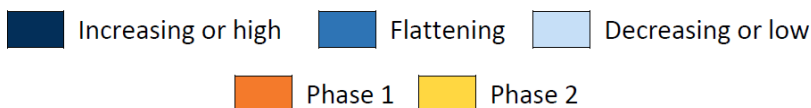
South Central Region Public Health Leadership,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an update to your phase status. After the region did not move to Phase 2 last week, it was brought to the attention of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) that a hospital in the region appeared to be incorrectly reporting its hospital admission data. Subsequently, DOH began working with the facility to review the submitted COVID-19 hospital admission data and confirmed that the facility was entering information incorrectly.

Utilizing the facility’s updated information, the region’s hospital admission metric was re-calculated and DOH concluded the region did meet the required metric criteria and will now advance to Phase 2 effective February 14, 2021. The Roadmap to Recovery dashboard will be updated with this information on Tuesday.

Your regional metrics as of February 14, 2021 are as follows:

Metric:		Trend in 14-day rate of COVID-19 cases per 100K population	Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100K population	Average 7-day percent of ICU staffed bed occupancy	7-day percent of positive COVID-19 tests
Time period:		2021-01-03 to 2021-01-16 vs. 2021-01-17 to 2021-01-30	2021-01-10 to 2021-01-23 vs. 2021-01-24 to 2021-02-06	2021-01-31 to 2021-02-06	2021-01-17 to 2021-01-23
<b>South Central Region</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	-41%	-19%	86%	14%



Please visit [Governor Inslee’s website](#) to learn which activities are permitted in your current phase. You can also refer to the most current [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery report](#), which includes details on how these metrics are calculated. If you have any questions about these activities or need technical assistance, please email [CovidExternalAffairs@doh.wa.gov](mailto:CovidExternalAffairs@doh.wa.gov).

The Department of Health will reassess the metrics every two weeks and will inform you of any changes to your current phase status. The [COVID-19 reopening dashboard](#) displays a summary map and table. As a reminder, three of the four metrics must be met in order to move forward from Phase 1 to Phase 2. In

order to remain in Phase 2, a region must continue to meet at least three of the four metrics. If your region is in Phase 2 and no longer meets two or more of the metrics, you will move back to Phase 1.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to public health.

**Lacy M. Fehrenbach, MPH, CPH**

Deputy Secretary

COVID-19 Response

Washington State Department of Health

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