



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHRIS BOICE TIM FREEMAN TOM KRESS**

Douglas County Courthouse, Room 217
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2020**

Douglas County Approved by the Governor to Begin Phase One Reopening

(Douglas County, Ore.) Douglas County Board of Commissioners received notice late last night that their application to begin the Phase One Reopening process in Douglas County has been approved by Oregon's Governor. The first phase of the reopening process will begin for county businesses on Friday, May 15, 2020. Douglas County will be among the first of Oregon's counties to start the process of reopening businesses and kick start our economy after the mandated closures were issued by the Governor in her Executive Order #20-12 dated March 17, 2020 in response to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

"This has been a tumultuous time for many of our citizens, as well as for the livelihood of our local businesses, but hopefully the reopening process will bring renewed life back into our struggling economy. Douglas County worked hard to make sure every aspect of managing the health and safety of our citizens was carefully prepared and organized in order to be on the forefront of the reopening process," stated Commissioner Chris Boice.

Douglas County's application was submitted on Friday, May 8, 2020 by Board Chair, Commissioner Chris Boice, who worked in conjunction with our Public Health Official, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer to quickly complete and submit our reopening application to the Governor.

"I am glad we have done so well in limiting the outbreaks and keeping our health care facilities from getting overwhelmed during the pandemic. I think we are as ready as anywhere to safely begin reopening our businesses. We may see more cases, but we will continue to be vigilant in limiting the impact of COVID-19 to our citizens," said Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, our Douglas County Public Health Official.

Douglas County continues to be recognized as leader in Oregon for our COVID-19 response for our drive-through testing, coordinated planning, prevention messaging and hospital/care facility capacity preparedness.

"I want to thank the Governor for recognizing the hard work Douglas County has done in combating this virus. It is a tremendous measure of reassurance for a job well done," stated Commissioner Tom Kress.

As the delegated liaison Commissioner to the COVID-19 crisis response, Commissioner Tim Freeman has directed the efforts of the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team.

"Douglas County owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, our Douglas County Public Health Official, Douglas Public Health Network and the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team for what they have accomplished in successfully managing the COVID-19 pandemic in Douglas County. If it was not for their cooperative efforts, we would not be able to safely start the process of reopening our businesses in a measured and phased manner. A huge thank you also needs to be given to the citizens of Douglas County for taking the crisis seriously, helping to flatten the curve for the spread of the virus, and for stepping up to help our fellow citizens in a desperate time. We ALL made this happen together," commented Commissioner Tim Freeman.

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