

Mid-Columbia Economic Resiliency Team
Weekly Digest – Tuesday, May 19

This digest is compiled weekly by the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District. It includes information and resources from Oregon, Washington, and the Mid-Columbia area related to employment, commerce and economic development issues surrounding COVID-19. If there are resources that you would like to share with the group or if you have questions, please contact Jacque (Jacque@mcedd.org). Resources related to employment, commerce, and economic development will be posted on the COVID-19 page at mcedd.org/ready.

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**The Small Business Administration and Department of Treasury** released Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness applications. Borrowers can find instructions and the PPP loan forgiveness application [here](#).

**The Small Business Development Center** will host the “Taking Your Company Virtual” webinar from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21. The training includes managing teams remotely, video conferencing tips, web security, time tracking and more. [Register here](#).

**The Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance** is hosting a Network Meeting on Thursday, May 21 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. for updates and a chance to connect. [Join here](#).

**The Public Health Institute** is hosting a webinar titled Trust for America's Health: COVID-19 and the Impact on Communities of Color on May 20, 11:00 am PT, to highlight the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color, as well as short- and long-term solutions needed to advance equity in response and recovery efforts. [Register Here](#).

**Advancing States has a new COVID-19 resource** to assist states during the crisis. [ConnectToCareJobs.com](http://ConnectToCareJobs.com) is a website that facilitates job matches between healthcare and long-term services and supports providers and people who have the appropriate skills and are available to work.

**OREGON:**

**Governor Kate Brown** announced the counties that can begin entering Phase 1 of reopening under her framework for building a safe and strong Oregon. Qualifying counties demonstrated that they meet all of Oregon’s safety and preparedness prerequisites for reopening, as well as a declining prevalence of COVID-19. [Read the news release](#). Governor Brown also issued a [new executive order](#) related to the reopening. You can find reopening guidance [here](#).

**The state’s reopening framework presentation** is now available in [Spanish](#).

**PPE resource list:** Business Oregon has compiled a resource list of PPE manufacturers and distributors. Small businesses may use the list to help find equipment necessary to reopen, including gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and more. [See the list](#).

**East Cascades Workforce Board** is hosting a WorkShare webinar on Thursday, May 21 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to discuss WorkShare programs to help employers safely and responsibly bring their employees back to work. [Register here](#).

**The Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation** has a messaging toolkit with signs and social media ideas to encourage safe and responsible outdoor recreation during the pandemic. [See the toolkit.](#)

**Oregon State Parks** has a new tool for Oregonians on how and where to recreate outdoors as some areas reopen. Some state parks are now open for limited day-use, while all overnight camping remains closed. View the status of parks and recreation facilities [here](#).

**The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development** has created a resource guide for land use planners and economic development officials to use during COVID-19. The pandemic presents an opportunity to rethink local codes and planning programs, and the guide provides tools to help recovery planning and community development. [Read more.](#)

**The Oregon Employment Department** received 14,100 initial claims for unemployment benefits during the week of May 3 to May 9. The agency has received 396,000 initial claims since COVID-19 business closures began in mid-March. [Read the news release.](#)

**Impact of COVID-19 on travel industry (UPDATED 5/12):** To help share information about COVID-19 impacts to the travel industry, Travel Oregon's research team is compiling state and national data on a weekly basis to share with external partners. [Read the report.](#)

**The Oregon Farmers Markets Association** has written an Oregon-specific guide for farmers market operators and vendors to share current COVID-19 policy, best practices and resources. [Read the guide.](#)

#### **WASHINGTON:**

**Resuming activities for Phase 2 Counties:** Governor Inslee issued guidance for resuming personal services and professional services and additional guidance for outdoor recreation, construction, golf and photography for counties granted variance under the Safe Start Phase 2 [recovery plan laid out last week](#).

- Personal services includes cosmetologists, hairstylists, barbers, estheticians, master estheticians, manicurists, nail salon workers, electrologists, permanent makeup artists, tattoo artists, cosmetology schools, and esthetics school," the guidance states. For more information click read the [memo](#) and [guidance](#).
- A professional service provider is defined as an office-based occupation that typically serves a client base. This includes but is not limited to: accountants, architects, attorneys, engineers, financial advisors, information technologists, insurance agents, tax preparers, and other professional service occupations. For more information, read the [memo](#) and [guidance](#).
- Additional outdoor recreational activities may resume, effective May 14. ([Memo](#), [Guidance](#)).
- All construction, including new work, is allowed, effective May 15. ([Memo](#), [Guidance](#)).
- Photography services may resume, effective May 15. ([Memo](#), [Guidance](#)).
- Updates to the original guidance for golf will take effect May 15 ([Memo](#), [Guidance](#))

**Elective procedures to resume:** Governor Inslee announced the state's plan for all elective medical procedures to resume. Each medical or dental practice will assess their readiness and their communities' COVID-19 activity to determine whether, and to what degree, they will reopen. Read more [here](#).

**The Goldendale and Mt. Adams Chambers of Commerce** will be hosting a webinar on taking your business virtual today, Tuesday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. Contact the [Chamber](#) to register.

**People for People** has employment and training program opportunities available for job seekers. Visit their [website](#) and complete the application.

**Voluntary contact information as part of phased reopening:** Governor Inslee issued a statement about [voluntary contact information](#) provided by patrons as part of phased reopening.

**A new [statewide report](#)** shows COVID-19 transmission is persisting in western Washington and slowly increasing in eastern Washington. The measure of how many new infections a single COVID-19 case will produce – known as the effective reproductive number – has not changed significantly in either region since the last statewide report, and continues to be higher than ideal.