

Mid-Columbia Economic Resiliency Team
Weekly Digest – Tuesday, June 9

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.

~~~~~

**The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility Act of 2020** has been passed. It provides borrowers additional time to qualify for forgiveness and eases the restrictions on how much of the forgivable portion of the loan proceeds must be used for payroll costs. The Small Business Administration, in consultation with Treasury, will issue rules and guidance, a modified borrower application form, and a modified loan forgiveness application implementing the legislative amendments. Read more details [here](#). The last day a [PPP](#) loan application can be approved is June 30, 2020.

**USDA is making available up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees** to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans may receive funding under USDA [Business & Industry CARES Act Program](#) provisions. Application Deadline: September 15, 2021, or until funds are expended.

**OREGON:**

**Oregon [reopening guidance](#)**

**In partnership with the Governor Brown's Regional Solutions team, SEDCOR** will be hosting a webinar, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am, about how to access the Governor's \$30M Food Security and Farmworker Safety Project fund. [Register here](#).

**Governor Kate Brown approves 26 counties for Phase 2 of Reopening:** Governor Kate Brown approved 26 counties to move into Phase 2 of reopening on June 5, 6 and 8 under her framework for building a safe and strong Oregon. [Learn more](#).

**Governor Kate Brown announces Phase 2 of building a safe and strong Oregon:** Governor Kate Brown recently announced details about Phase 2 of reopening under her framework for building a safe and strong Oregon. There are 31 counties that can apply to enter Phase 2 on Friday, June 5. [Read more](#).

**Governor Brown** issued [executive order 20-27](#) to set baseline requirements that apply statewide and provides a statewide phased reopening process and guidelines that apply in Phase 1 and Phase 2..

**Oregon Health Authority** has issued mask and face covering [guidance](#) for businesses, transit, and the public.

**Economic Disparities, an Ongoing Discussion:** The Office of Economic Analysis writes about historical disparities in employment and how economic recession and recovery impacts different racial and ethnic groups across Oregon. The office will continue to analyze and write about the implications and

differences geographically, for various industries and occupations and for different socio-economic and racial groups across the state. [Read the blog post.](#)

## **WASHINGTON:**

### **Washington [reopening guidance](#)**

**The Yakama Nation's Indian Health Service** has been offering drive-thru testing to expand service for their members. They have requested the assistance of the Washington National Guard's Community Based Testing Team to help get their members tested. A temporary drive-thru testing site will be located in Goldendale on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Goldendale Middle School. Any tribal member that is in need of a test will need to contact the Indian Health Service clinic (509-865-1708).

**Governor Inslee and the state's Joint Information Center** launched an updated version of the state's [COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard](#) last week. The dashboard provides researchers and the public a better ability to see what's happening at the regional and county level when it comes to COVID-19 activity, testing, and healthcare system readiness.

**Governor Inslee** released a [template for businesses in Phase 3](#) of the Washington "[Safe Start](#)" plan. Each business or entity operating in Phase 3 must develop a written safety plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A business may fill out this template to fulfill the requirement or may develop its own safety plan.

**Beginning June 8, all employees in Washington** will be required to wear a cloth facial covering, except when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site, or when the job has no in-person interaction. Employers must provide cloth facial coverings to employees, unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under the Department of Labor and Industries' [safety requirements](#). Employees may choose to wear their own facial coverings at work, provided it meets the minimum requirements. The state also has [information](#) about cloth face coverings for the public.