



# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Vicki Baker**  
District 1

**Ron Anderson**  
District 2

**Norm Childress**  
District 3

## **Yakima County Announces New Activities Under Modified Phase I Commissioners Credit Negotiations to Success**

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YAKIMA – Yakima County Commissioners, in partnership with the Yakima Health District, are pleased to announce that Yakima County has been approved for additional services under the County’s Modified Phase I called “Roadmap to Recovery.” The new guidance was released by the Health District earlier today and takes effect Thursday, August 27, 2020.

County Commissioners credit non-stop negotiations with state agencies and the Governor’s Office to the success. “I have been in regular negotiations with the State and local health officials to convince them that Yakima County is ready to open up Phase II activities,” stated County Commissioner Vicki Baker, District 1. “I collaborated with other County Commissioners in Benton-Franklin and Douglas-Chelan counties to coordinate our efforts. We’ve fought for inside dining, indoor church services, real estate guidance, and expanding as many indoor and outdoor activities as possible,” she added. “Finally, these discussions are reaping results.”

Commissioner Baker noted that the County made a strong case to the State Department of Health and the Governor’s Office by pointing out that local businesses and residents have complied with State requirements, including masking up. “Our compliance rate with masking is fantastic at 96%. Our infection rates are trending down, our hospitalization rates are down, and it’s time for the state to recognize that Yakima County is moving in the right direction,” she said. “Today’s announcement does just that.”

Commissioner Baker observed that local leaders and businesses have been critical to the current success rate and are an important resource moving forward. “We urge the community to look to our local resources to find the most current information and guidance, and not to rely on information located in state sites, CDC or on any other county’s websites. Please monitor [www.YVOpenandSafe.com](http://www.YVOpenandSafe.com).”

“Our work is not done – but this is an important milestone for our community,” she concluded.

**For more information on additional services under modified Phase I**, please monitor [www.YVOpenAndSafe.com](http://www.YVOpenAndSafe.com). Business owners will find important guidance there, which is specific to Yakima County.

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