



MEDIA RELEASE

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“South Central Region to Advance to Phase 2”

YAKIMA, WA- The Yakima County Board of Commissioners are incredibly grateful to announce that our South Central Region DID meet 3 of the 4 metrics in Governor Jay Inslee’s Roadmap To Recovery.

Data was immediately questioned after the region did not move to Phase 2 last week citing an increase in hospital admissions.

Proving the Washington State Department of Health data was inaccurate took an immense effort by local elected leaders, health officials, and medical staff across 6 counties.

This is a WIN because of YOUR efforts to slow the spread of COVID19. Congratulations to every resident in Yakima County! It’s time for Phase 2! Please visit Yakima Health District’s website and Yakima Valley website www.yvopenandsafe.com for details on what Phase 2 means for you as a resident, a consumer and a business.

Special thanks is given to Senator King, Perry Dozier, State Senator, 16th District and Senator Andy Billig for obtaining bi-partisan support for DOH to quickly address this discrepancy, and to Rep. Dan Newhouse who reached out to Governor Jay Inslee directly to convey his concern and support for immediately allowing our Region to advance into Phase 2 with the rest of Washington state. Much thanks to Commissioner Greg Tompkins, Commissioner Will McCay, Commissioner Cory Wright, and Commissioner Brad Peck for coordinating all their data with area Health Districts and believing we could do this. Our Yakima Health District staff stepped up to the challenge and helped our partner health agencies communicate successfully with DOH. Thank you for your hard work!

Metric: New COVID-19 Hospitalization Patient Admission Rate 1/10-1/23 vs. 1/24-2/6 Success = -10%

Correct Data:

Yakima -36%

Kittitas -25%

Walla Walla -36%

Benton -10%

Franklin -22%

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