



Corvallis-Benton County
Economic Development Office
economic.development@corvallisoregon.gov

May 15, 2020

On Thursday, May 14, Governor Brown announced the approval of Benton County's application for Phase 1 county-wide reopening. The reopening allows businesses from certain sectors, like retail and personal services, to reopen previously closed stores, and other sectors, like food and beverage, to expand services. Information is changing quickly and all businesses are encouraged to actively check for updates to guidelines and information through the various resources listed in this document. Our office wanted to take the opportunity to communicate with Benton County businesses regarding recommendations and resources, as known at this time.

- The following are allowed to reopen on May 15th under Phase 1, given compliance with OHA guidance: retail stores, including furniture, boutiques, jewelry stores, shopping centers, and malls; restaurants, bars, and other dining facilities, with required closure by 10:00pm; personal services, like salons and barbershops; and gyms and other fitness facilities. Find sector guidelines [here](#).
- Information on reopening in Phases II and III has not yet been published. Please continue to check for updates on these guidelines.
- All the public health and hygiene practices that have brought us to this point should still be followed, including frequent handwashing, wearing masks in public, 6-foot physical ("social") distancing, and staying home if you or someone you live with feels unwell.
- **Complete reopening is not a sure thing.** COVID-19 cases will be closely monitored during all phases of reopening and it is possible that businesses will have to close again and the County will regress to pre-reopening conditions.

FAQs

Q: When can I reopen my business?

A: *If your business falls into one of the categories outlined by the State of Oregon's Phase 1 reopening guidance, you can reopen any time on or after May 15th, 2020. If your business or organization is not included in Phase 1 reopening, please stay tuned for more information on Phase 2 and Phase 3 reopening plans.*

Q: Do I need a permit to reopen my business?

A: *No, but every business must follow Oregon guidelines for their business sector. Sector-specific links can be found below.*

Q: Do I have to reopen when the rest of the County does?

A: *No, you can wait to reopen your business when you are ready, but you cannot reopen before the County's reopening date.*

Q: Is everyone working required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)? Do I have to provide PPE for my employees?

A: *PPE requirements vary depending on the business sector. Please review the sector guidelines for your business to understand what is required of you and your employees. Sector guidance can be found here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>. Generally, if an item of PPE is required for your sector, a business must provide it for their employees in order for them to work.*

Q: Where can I get PPE for my business?

A: *We understand that there are shortages and supply chain interruptions due to the pandemic. Business Oregon has compiled a list of PPE suppliers for Oregon small businesses. Check it out [here](#). Local suppliers are also encouraged to add their name to this list.*

Links to Sector Guidelines & Helpful Information

- Benton County's Phase 1 reopening plan was accepted on Wednesday, May 13th. The plan outlines the County's progress on seven key benchmarks outlined by Governor Kate Brown. The governor unveiled a phased approach to re-opening counties throughout Oregon on May 7. The Benton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff is moving quickly to facilitate Phase 1 of the Governor's plan. (<https://www.co.benton.or.us/boc/page/benton-county-apply-phased-re-opening>)
- [Recorded Presentation of Reopening Framework](#) – Governor Kate Brown's Chief of Staff, Nik Blosser, shares details on restarting public life and business in Oregon
- [General Guidance for Employers](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342C.pdf) – General considerations for your workplace (<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342C.pdf>)
- [Phase One Sector Guidance: RETAIL](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342A.pdf) – Specific Guidance for Retail Stores (<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342A.pdf>)
 - [Specific Guidance for Shopping Centers & Malls](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342G.pdf) (<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342G.pdf>)
- [Phase One Sector Guidance: RESTAURANTS, BARS, BREWERIES, TASTING ROOMS, DISTILLERIES](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342B.pdf) – Specific Guidance for Restaurants, Bars, Breweries, Brewpubs, Wineries, Tasting Rooms and Distilleries (<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342B.pdf>)



- [Phase One Sector Guidance: PERSONAL SERVICES](#) – Specific Guidance for Personal Services Providers
(<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342F.pdf>)
- [Phase One Sector Guidance: OUTDOOR RECREATION](#) – Specific Guidance for Outdoor Recreation Organizations
(<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2342E.pdf>)

Signage

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) published signs for businesses to use. There are 3 different signs available in 9 different languages [here](https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19#collapseOHAGuidance). (<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19#collapseOHAGuidance>)

Further Information

Information is changing quickly and often. Below are a few resources available to ask questions and check in with to make sure you have the most updated information possible.

For general questions on COVID-19, including questions about Benton County's reopening process, status, and guidelines, please call 541-766-6120 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or email benton.reopening@gmail.com.

For information and updates from Benton County, please visit <https://www.co.benton.or.us/coronavirus>.

For information, updates and to sign up for the weekly newsletter from the Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office, please visit www.yescorvallis.org/resources.

For extensive resources and guidance on statewide reopening from Governor Brown's office, visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>.