



KATE BROWN
Governor

May 14, 2020

Polk County Board of Commissioners
850 Main Street
Dallas, OR 97338

Commissioners,

Thank you for the effort you, your hospitals and your public health experts put into your plan for meeting the prerequisites demonstrating your county's preparedness for beginning to lift restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After careful review, your county's application to enter Phase I on May 15th has not been approved for the following primary reason:

- Polk County did not meet prerequisite 1, a decrease in hospitalizations of Polk County residents over a 14 day period. Between the period 4/26-5/9 compared to the previous week of 4/12-4/25, there was an increase in hospitalizations.

In addition, there are several other factors we reviewed that were of significant concern, including:

- The percent change in incident cases from 5/3-5/9 compared to the previous week of 4/26-5/2 was a significant increase.
- You had a significant increase from 5/3-5/9 compared to the previous week of 4/26-5/2 in cases that were sporadic, or not tied to an existing case.

We know you are working hard to address the challenges your county faces. I have directed the Oregon Health Authority to provide additional support to your efforts to identify and contain COVID-19 in your county.

Next Wednesday, May 20, we will review your county's metrics again and will report back to you for a potential reopening on Friday, May 22. You do not need to submit another application.

Thank you for all of your hard work and vigilance on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown