LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RALPH E. WYATT
Administrative Officer

May 29, 2020

Sent by email to: **jennifer.j.andrew@oregon.gov**

Honorable Governor Kate Brown
c/o Jennifer Andrew
254 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301-4047

RE: Request to Advance Linn County to Phase II Reopening

Dear Governor Brown:

The Linn County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that you move Linn County to Phase II beginning June 5, 2020. Below is our response to your May 28, 2020 prerequisite phase II guidance for reopening Oregon.

1. Declining prevalence of COVID-19: **We attest that Linn County meets this criteria**.

   A. Visit to emergency rooms for COVID-19 like illnesses – **we continue to meet these criteria.**

   B. A 14-day decline in Covid-19 hospitalizations – Only applies if >5 Cases; **Linn County's maximum hospitalization was 3 with now no one currently hospitalized in Linn County.**

2. Minimum Testing Regimen: **We attest that Linn County meets this criteria**.

   A. Test at >30/10k per week **–We continue to exceed >30/10k.**

   B. Sufficient Testing Sites: **Re-attest that we meet this. Last week we went to 19 Senior Care facilities and sampled staff and guest. Today we expect to test 150 to 200 staff at the Linn County Fair/Expo Center.**

      1. **We have three fixed sites in Albany and there are three fixed sites in Lebanon; see attached list from Samaritan Health (Attachment 1).**
      2. **We are training and supplying our mobile Homeless Outreach Team to be able to test homeless camp situations out in the County.**
      3. **We have experienced standing up a 6-lane testing site at our Expo Center that can administer 300 tests per day and have the ability to do that in a variety of locations in the County.**

3. Contact Tracing System: **We attest that Linn County meets this criteria, except new criteria D; see explanation and mitigation below.**

   A. Need 15 tracers per 100k citizens – **1.29k times 15 is 19; we have trained 30.**

   B. Tracing workforce is reflective of County – **Yes, there are bilingual Spanish team members.**

   C. County is prepared to trace 95% of cases in 24 hr. – **Yes, we are doing that now and we are ramping up to be able to handle our expected increase of positive caseload as we increase testing.**

New Criteria -

   D. County to successfully contact tracing a minimum of 70% of positive cases to an existing source. **For cases from 5/18 – 5/26 which is the timeframe being measured, we had five new cases. Of those five, three were unrelated to any others and two were in the same household and under the care of one of the positives (meaning they were linked). Of the five cases during that time frame two are connected to each other and the other three were not. Five cases are the smallest number we have had in a two week period of time since COVID-19 was first recognized in our County. We can provide further details upon request.**

   A key component of our mitigation plan going forward to meet the minimum tracing criteria is that we are proactively testing 100-200+ long term care facility and group home staff every week to ensure the most vulnerable in our community are being protected since the primary source of infection is through staff contact. If any staff turns up positive we will test all staff and residents at the specific location.

4. Isolation Facilities: **We attest that Linn County meets this criteria and continues to make plans to exceed.**

   A. Hotels rooms for those who cannot self isolate:
      1. **We have set up a tent for a COVID presumed positive homeless person with monitoring, food and sanitation facilities. He was negative and returned to shelter.**
      2. **We have an agreement with a hotel for a voucher program if or when needed.**

   B. Narrative of how we will/have responded to three different outbreaks – **We have had four actual responses to outbreaks.**
      1. Nursing Home – **Veteran's Home in Lebanon was one of the State's earliest epicenters. With support from ODVA/OHA/Samaritan Health and others; nightly calls addressed issues like supply of necessary PPE (at ten times the usual burn rate), housing for isolation in the home, additional medical skills and backfilling of sick staff (at one time 5 asymptomatic cases) isolating off-site. Out of the 32 cases, all were managed by the facility, none were ever hospitalized.**

2. Food Processing – **As soon as cases were traced to National Frozen Food (NFF), a large State and County effort was mounted. We worked with NFF and OHA/ODA to shut down operations. NFF has cleaned the facility, changed procedures, tested all employees and are ready to reopen today. Some of the employee cases reside in Marion and Benton Counties; no Linn County hospitalizations.**

3. Positive Health Providers – **Early on, we had in one week a physician at the Albany "Corvallis Clinic" site and a few days' later two doctors in different offices of Samaritan Health. We demonstrated the ability to trace patients, and manage the effects to both the exposed public and the impact of health providers being ill; it was addressed quickly.**
4. In a congregate setting – **we had one positive case in a group home. The next day we tested the facility and will respond as needed as this has only recently occurred. No other positives.**

5. Finalized Statewide Sector Guidelines: **We attest that Linn County meets this criteria and we continue to reach out to the public for changes to Guidance as we note the changes. When changes occur we will respond with press releases and updated links to information.**

6. Sufficient Health Care Capacity: **See Samaritan Health's for Reopening Plan and the medical region.**

7. Sufficient PPE Supply: **We affirm and we verified again today, that all first responder organizations have PPE supply and the supply chain is under control. We continue to supply PPE as needed to businesses and communities as needed**.

   A. Hospital must report PPE on HOSCAP daily – **As part of the Medical Reopening Plans, our hospitals are reporting daily supply through HOSCAP.**

   B. Hospital in region must have 14 or 30 days of PPE depending on size - **Hospital affirm they have PPE to meet/exceed the guideline; see HOSCAP.**

   C. Counties must have sufficient PPE for first responders – **We Re-attest we have canvassed all P.D. and Fire's and we have affirmations in meeting this requirement. We are able to back-fill PPE and move supplies around as needed.**

   D. Community PPE – **We have made arrangements with the Chambers of Commerce to stock PPE for the local business communities; we have a "buy back" agreement with the chambers.**

In summary, Linn County continues to meet the requirements for Phase I as well as a Phase II reopening as outlined in the final prerequisites outlined by your office yesterday. Should your staff need additional supporting documents, we will be ready to provide those immediately.

We believe that the collaborative efforts between Linn County, the Oregon Health Authority and our private sector health care partners have put Linn County in a position to successfully move to Phase II in your plan to reopen Oregon. Governor Brown, we are grateful for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Roger Nyquist, Chairman

John K. Lindsey, Commissioner

William C. Tucker, Commissioner

Attachments
cc: Todd Noble, Linn County Health Services Administrator