

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA

Monday, August 31, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room

Heppner, Oregon

Zoom Meeting Info Below

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** 4:30 p.m.
- 2. City/Citizen Comments:** Individuals may address the Board on topics not on the agenda
- 3. Open Agenda:** The Board may introduce subjects not on the agenda
- 4. Business Items**
 - a. Review Letter to Governor Kate Brown Requesting Phase II Opening
- 5. Signing of documents**
- 6. Adjournment**

Agendas are available every Friday on our website (www.co.morrow.or.us/boc under “Upcoming Events”). Meeting Packets can also be found the following Monday.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Roberta Lutcher at (541) 676-5613.

Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; however, the Board may consider additional subjects as well. This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend. Executive sessions are closed to the public; however, with few exceptions and under specific guidelines, are open to the media. The Board may recess for lunch depending on the anticipated length of the meeting and the topics on the agenda. If you have anything that needs to be on the agenda, please notify the

Board office before noon of the preceding Friday. If something urgent comes up after this publication deadline, please notify the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions about items listed on the agenda, please contact Darrell J. Green, Administrator at (541) 676-2529.

Zoom Meeting Information

Morrow County Board of Commissioners is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5416762546>

PASSWORD: 97836 **Meeting ID: 541-676-2546**

Zoom Call-In Numbers for Audio Only Using Meeting ID 541-676-2546#:

1-346-248-7799	1-929-436-2866
1-669-900-6833	1-253-215-8782
1-312-626-6799	1-301-715-8592



P.O. Box 788 • Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-5613
www.co.morrow.or.us

Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Chair
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St. N.E., Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Letter of Request to Reenter Phase II of Reopening

Dear Governor Brown,

Morrow County thanks you for your communications, as through partnership and collaboration we are stronger in our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and open our schools and economies. Like you we are in a new environment and navigating to the best of our abilities to protect our citizen in many ways.

Morrow County respectfully requests to reenter Phase II of Reopening by Friday September 4, 2020

We appreciate your willingness to see Morrow County and its unique and independent efforts. We have formed crucial partnerships with the team work of our Emergency Command Team and Board of Commissioners. We actively stood up our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on March 3, 2020 and continue to actively meet weekly to seek additional ways to slow the spread and compliment OHA efforts. As described in the "A Safe and Strong Oregon" Executive Order, Morrow County remains prepared to move into Phase II safely. We continue to meet criteria outlined in the letter to County Leaders, May 28, 2020, specifically in the areas of COVID-19 Emergency Department (ED) visits, hospitalizations and percent of cases traced. Our Public Health Department has done an outstanding job in contact tracing and working to isolate cases. We have exceeded the recommended number of contact tracers and CD Investigators and have a strong focus on bilingual and bicultural support to our Latinx demographics in tracing, monitoring and wrap around services.

Morrow County continues to do great work with our COVID-19 efforts. We are looking at our County data to determine who is at risk in our County and are honing our message and efforts into those demographics. Our efforts continue to be rural, granular and culturally appropriate.

We have been strategic in our focus and look closely at how our communities are directly impacted. We have partnered with our agricultural producers and processing plants to overcome threats of COVID-19 and are seeing our efforts paying off in recent weeks, see attached Onset Graphics/Case Count.

Morrow County is working on and committed to focusing on a direct campaign toward promoting, educating and empowering personal responsibility in wearing masks and physical distancing. We realize these are behavior changes that will take direct effort to protect our vulnerable populations, business communities, and the ability of students to return to school. We have teamed up with our behavioral health specialists to support these efforts throughout our communities by inviting more leadership to the table.

Our Morrow County Emergency Operations Team, which includes our Public Health Director, behavior health provider and Emergency Manager, has taken a close analysis of the request to step back into Phase II of Reopening and did not find a correlation between positive testing and the economies that would benefit from a shift back into Phase II. Keeping a positive momentum forward will allow us to continue to work and focus on encouraging mask use, physical distancing and educating best practices. We continue to promote mitigation processes within our County by partnering with embedded community-based organizations and helping our main streets and essential industries to reduce risk.

We continue to attest to, based upon available information, the following;

- Morrow County's first responders have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing capabilities.
- Morrow County consistently contacts with follow-up within 24 hours for all cases at above 95%.
- Morrow County currently has seven trained contact tracers, including three bilingual, in excess of the OHA recommendation based on the population of Morrow County and is currently training an additional tracer with bilingual/bicultural capabilities.
- Morrow County is well below the indicator percent ED visits for symptoms at 0.4%.
- Morrow County has seen a notable improvement in percent new cases in the most recent three weeks and into this fourth week's data collection.

Morrow County has been successful in its efforts and is confident in its Public Health Department and EOC Team. We believe a return to Phase II will not have a negative impact on our citizens' continued efforts to slow the spread. Morrow County citizens will continue to do their part to slow the spread by wearing masks, physical distancing and best practices with hand washing and disinfecting.

Again, we request that you allow Morrow County to return to Phase II Reopening and ask that we be given the opportunity to discuss this matter with you directly, in detail, should any further questions or concerns arise before action is taken otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact Chair Melissa Lindsay, (541) 561-0234, or email mlindsay@co.morrow.or.us.

We look forward to working closely with you and the State in our continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lindsay
Chair

Don Russell
Commissioner

Jim Doherty
Commissioner

Attachment: Onset Graphics/Case Count



Disease

Epilinks Sex Race Age Age Rates By Onset Year By Month By Week By Day

Reports by Week

