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THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

May 27, 2020

Schelli Slaughter,
Director

Dear Food Establishment Operator:

Thank you for your continued support of our community. We understand operating a food establishment is a challenge that is made even more difficult due to COVID-19 and we appreciate your work to help control the spread of the virus in our area.

Thurston County is now in **Phase 2**. Washington is using a [phased approach](#) to reopen food establishment onsite dining. Food establishments may reopen onsite dining if they meet Governor Inslee's [Phase 2 Restaurant/Tavern Reopening COVID-19 Requirements](#).

Go to our web page to see what phase we are in:
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>.

Are You Ready for Phase 2?

Before opening your dining area, you are required to have a plan to ensure proper customer physical distancing and ensure worker safety. Some national guidance talks about needing food safety manager training (like ServSafe and others) for all shifts. **THIS IS NOT A WASHINGTON STATE REQUIREMENT.**

Review the included toolkit materials to help you create or evaluate your plan:

- Governor Inslee's Phase 2 Requirements.** Please read carefully as there are several requirements unique to COVID-19 that go beyond routine food safety practices.
 - Your plan must meet the governor's requirements and work for your operation
- COVID-19 Food Establishment Reopening – Physical Facilities.** This guidance will help ensure your kitchen is functional and ready to support food safety.
- Phase 2 Reopening Checklist.** This 2-page document will help you quickly check your establishment and plan for key points to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - While not required, we highly recommend you fill this out and keep as a record to show you took the necessary steps to safely reopen
- Phase 2 Food Establishment Operation.** This guidance will help you ensure employee and customer safety.
- Signs for customers and staff.** Signs to help educate staff and customers are available.

We appreciate your continued effort to protect the health and safety of your workers, your business, and our community. Conditions and requirements are likely to change so please stay informed and check back to our website often. As always, please reach out if you have any questions. We are eager to work with you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

The Food & Environmental Services Section

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