

# Yakama Nation's COVID-19 Reopening Plan Introduction

## Safely Reopening During The Covid-19 Public Health Emergency

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Yakama Nation”) developed this Phased Reopening Plan (“Plan”) to facilitate a safe reopening of activities, government facilities, schools, events, and businesses located on the Yakama Reservation and off-reservation trust allotments within the jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation. The Yakama Nation’s priority throughout the COVID-19 emergency has been the health and well-being of our members, non-member residents, and neighbors. This priority continues to guide decision-making as we implement this Plan.

The Plan’s overarching objective is to allow the Yakama Nation’s members and non-member residents to safely return to a sense of normalcy. The Plan includes four (4) phases, each phase being less restrictive than the last. The Yakama Nation will evaluate and weigh available data to determine if certain Health Benchmarks have been met with respect to containing the COVID-19 outbreak. If there is a significant regression in the Health Benchmarks, the Yakama Nation will move into a more restrictive phase. In contrast, if the Yakama Nation meets those Health Benchmarks, it will move into the next phase and restrictions will ease.

The public will be notified of updates regarding this Plan by all available means, including notices on the Yakama Nation’s website, Facebook pages, radio station, and physically posted at governmental facilities. The Yakama Nation encourages members, Yakama Reservation residents, and businesses to contact the Yakama Nation’s health authorities/Tribal Health Officer/Indian Health Service/White Swan Health Clinic with any questions regarding this Plan or the COVID-19 emergency.

This Plan is intended only for governmental management purposes in support of public health and safety within Yakama lands. This Plan is not intended to create any substantive or procedural right or benefit enforceable at law by a party against the Yakama Nation, its enterprises, or any person. This Plan is subject to amendment by the appropriate Yakama Nation Tribal Council oversight committee.

## The Yakama Nation’s success in reopening depends on our Community’s commitment to taking personal responsibility for:

- **Wearing masks in public;**
- **Practicing social distancing;**
- **Washing hands and commonly touched surfaces; and**
- **Getting vaccinated.**

# Yakama Nation's COVID-19 Reopening Plan

PHASE

1

PHASE

2

PHASE

3

PHASE

4

<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS</b>	Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Mask Up	Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Mask Up	Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Mask Up	Resume activities, while following all Recommended Safety Practices
<b>EXERCISE OF TREATY RIGHTS</b>	Allow Pursuant to existing Yakama regulations	Allow Pursuant to existing Yakama regulations	Allow Pursuant to existing Yakama regulations	Allow Pursuant to existing Yakama regulations
<b>GATHERINGS (RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL)</b>	No religious or social gatherings recommended outside immediate household	Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week	Indoors: No more than 50 people Outdoors: No more than 200 people	Resume normal gatherings, maintain safety practices
<b>TRAVEL</b>	Local travel for essential needs only	Essential travel outside community allowed, monitor for potential symptoms upon return	All domestic travel permitted, monitor for potential symptoms upon return	All travel permitted, monitor for potential symptoms upon return
<b>BUSINESSES/ EMPLOYERS</b>	Essential businesses should remain open for essential services  Non-essential businesses and schools must remain closed	Manufacturing, construction, retail sales, real estate, barbershops, and daycares may reopen with recommended safety measures in place	Non-essential businesses and schools can reopen with recommended safety measures in place	All businesses may remain open, maintaining adequate safety practices

### For The General Public:

- **Masks Required:** All individuals within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments must wear a face covering or mask over your nose and mouth when in any indoor public setting, and in any outdoor public setting unless social distancing of at least six feet is observed at all times.
- **High Risk Populations:** Continue to stay home and isolate. People living in the same household as a member of a High Risk Population should adhere to Recommended Safety Practices and exercise caution when leaving the household.
- **Exercise of Treaty Rights:** Yakama Members may exercise Treaty-reserved rights subject to all existing Yakama Nation laws and regulations. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Religious Gatherings:** Longhouses and churches within the Yakama Reservation are strongly encouraged to delay spiritual ceremonial gatherings except for funerals that follow the recommendations in the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee's March 25, 2020 Companion to Public Safety Announcement No. 2.
- **Social Gatherings:** No social gatherings with individuals outside your immediate household are permitted.
- **Travel:** All Yakama Reservation Residents should avoid travel, except to obtain necessary services from grocery stores, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.

### For Employers and Businesses:

- **Essential Businesses:** All essential businesses should remain open to provide essential services. Essential businesses should provide PPE to your workforce and enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business activities. It may also be considered to alternate employee work schedules if appropriate. Governmental offices are closed to the public.
- **Non-Essential Businesses:** All non-essential businesses must remain closed. All schools and daycares must remain closed to in-person instruction and services.

### For The General Public:

- **Masks Required:** All individuals within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments must wear a face covering or mask over your nose and mouth when in any indoor public setting, and in any outdoor public setting unless social distancing of at least six feet is observed at all times.
- **High Risk Populations:** Continue to stay home and isolate. People living in the same household as a member of a High Risk Population should adhere to Recommended Safety Practices and exercise caution when leaving the household.
- **Exercise of Treaty Rights:** Yakama Members may exercise Treaty-reserved rights subject to all existing Yakama Nation laws and regulations. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Religious Gatherings:** Longhouses and churches within the Yakama Reservation are strongly encouraged to delay spiritual ceremonial gatherings except for funerals that follow the recommendations in the Yakama Nation Tribal Council Executive Committee's March 25, 2020 Companion to Public Safety Announcement No. 2. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Social Gatherings:** Individuals can gather with no more than 5 other individuals outside your immediate household per week, and are encouraged to note all those individuals that you interacted with to facilitate contact tracing. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Travel:** Essential travel outside your community is allowed, provided that all Recommended Safety Practices are followed. Upon return, individuals should closely monitor for possible COVID symptoms; if experiencing one or more, follow up with a certified health professional. Non-essential travel is not recommended.

### For Employers and Businesses:

- **Essential Businesses:** All essential businesses should remain open to provide essential services. Essential businesses should provide PPE to your workforce and enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business activities. It may also be considered to alternate employee work schedules if appropriate. Governmental offices are closed to the public, except by appointment.
- **Non-Essential Businesses:** Manufacturing, construction, retail sales, real estate, and barbershops, and daycares may reopen while following all Recommended Safety Practices. Restaurants may reopen to outdoor dining, and indoor dining at no more than 50% capacity to preventing a future resurgence of COVID-19 while following all Recommended Safety Practices. All other non-essential businesses must remain closed. Schools should remain closed until Recommended Safety Practices can be reliably followed by all staff and students at all times.

### For The General Public:

- **Masks Required:** All individuals within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments must wear a face covering or mask over your nose and mouth when in any indoor public setting, and in any outdoor public setting unless social distancing of at least six feet is observed at all times.
- **High Risk Populations:** Continue to stay home and isolate. People living in the same household as a member of a High Risk Population should adhere to Recommended Safety Practices and exercise caution when leaving the household.
- **Exercise of Treaty Rights:** Yakama Members may exercise Treaty-reserved rights subject to all existing Yakama Nation laws and regulations. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Religious Gatherings:** Longhouses and churches can resume indoor services of up to 50 individuals, and outdoor services of up to 200 individuals. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Social Gatherings:** Individuals can gather with no more than 50 other individuals outside your immediate household, while following Recommended Safety Practices.
- **Travel:** All domestic travel is allowed, provided that individuals follow Recommended Safety Practices. Upon return, individuals should closely monitor for possible COVID symptoms; if experiencing one or more, follow up with a certified health professional

### For Employers and Businesses:

- **Essential Businesses:** All essential businesses should remain open to provide essential services. Essential businesses should provide PPE to your workforce and enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business activities. Governmental offices reopen to all employees, provided that Recommended Safety Practices are enforced, and provided that governmental offices remain closed to the public except by appointment. It may also be considered to alternate employee work schedules if appropriate.
- **Non-Essential Businesses:** Non-essential businesses, provided that such businesses enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business and school activities may reopen. It may also be considered to alternate employee work schedules if appropriate.

### **For The General Public:**

- **Masks Required:** All individuals within the Yakama Reservation and off-Reservation trust allotments must wear a face covering or mask over your nose and mouth when in any indoor public setting, and in any outdoor public setting unless social distancing of at least six feet is observed at all times.
- **High Risk Populations:** Resume normal activities, following all Recommended Safety Practices.
- **Exercise of Treaty Rights:** Yakama Members may exercise Treaty-reserved rights subject to all existing Yakama Nation laws and regulations. Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Religious Gatherings:** Longhouses and churches can resume normal services, provided that Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Social Gatherings:** Individuals can resume social gatherings, provided that Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times.
- **Travel:** All travel is allowed, provided that Recommended Safety Practices should be followed at all times. Upon return, individuals should closely monitor for possible COVID symptoms; if experiencing one or more, follow up with a certified health professional

### **For Employers and Businesses:**

- **Essential Businesses:** All essential businesses should remain open to provide essential services. Essential businesses should provide PPE to your workforce and enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business activities. Governmental offices resume normal operations, provided that Recommended Safety Practices are enforced.
- **Non-Essential Businesses:** Non-essential businesses can reopen, provided that such businesses enforce Recommended Safety Practices for all business activities.

# Definitions

**Essential Businesses:** Essential businesses include grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, medical providers, takeout and delivery restaurants, banks, laundromats, auto mechanics, agricultural enterprises, governmental operations, and all businesses necessary to maintain continuity of operations of the critical infrastructure sectors outlined at [www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-COVID-19](http://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-COVID-19).

**Health Benchmarks/Metrics:** Statistical measures that the Yakama Nation's Tribal Health Officer and the HEW Committee will use to decide whether the move into a new phase, or regress into a prior phase of the Yakama Nation's COVID-19 Response.

The following four metrics will be used to determine the recovery phases:

1. Trend in Case Rate: Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people.
2. Trend in Hospital Admission Rate: Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions in 100,000 people.
3. Trend in Percentage ICU Occupancy: Average 7-day percentage occupancy of ICU staffed beds.
4. Trend in Percentage of Positivity Cases: 7-day positivity of COVID-19 tests (DOH, WA, 2021).

*See the attached "Recovery Determining Criteria" by the DOH, WA, 2021.*

*See the attached statistical data from the IHS Yakama Nations Clinic.*

**High Risk Populations:** People who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 include individuals over the age of 60 or those with serious underlying health conditions, including: asthma; kidney disease that requires dialysis; chronic lung disease; diabetes; hemoglobin disorders; immunocompromised; liver disease; serious heart conditions; or severe obesity.

**Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE"):** Equipment worn to minimize exposure to COVID-19 or related illnesses, including gloves, face-masks, eye protection, and hand sanitizer. Face-masks are surgical masks, N95 masks, or cloth masks that protect the wearer's nose and mouth from germs. Hand sanitizer should have at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol content.

**Recommended Safety Practices:** The Yakama Nation recommends that everyone practice the following safety measures to protect yourselves and your community, including but not limited to, wearing a face covering or mask, washing your hands, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, practicing Social Distancing, getting vaccinated, and ensuring proper ventilation occurs when indoors.

**Social Distancing:** Practicing physical distancing by keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home, staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people, avoiding groups of people, and staying away from crowded places or mass gatherings to prevent a future resurgence of COVID-19

**Vaccines:** Yakama Nation strongly encourages Tribal members/employees/students to receive the vaccine to help achieve population immunity. If you or your child have been diagnosed with COVID-19, delay vaccination until you have recovered from being sick.

**Population Immunity:** Population immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they've already had the disease or because they've been vaccinated. Population immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person. It even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to the vaccine. The percentage of people who need to have protection to achieve population immunity varies by disease and we are still learning how many people have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before the population can be considered protected.

# COVID-19 Contact Information

## Vaccine Appointments:

- White Swan Health Clinic: (509) 865-8703
- Indian Health Service, Yakama Service Unit: (509) 865-1709 / (509) 865-2102 ext. 250

## Yakama Nation COVID-19 Incident Command:

- Phone: (509) 865-7272
- Email: covid19@yakama.com

## Dr. Jacqueline Bae, Yakama Nation Tribal Health Officer:

- Phone: 509-830-2786
- Email: Jacqueline\_bae@yakama.com

## Additional Resources

### Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Resources:

- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

### Center for Disease Control Guidelines for Tribal Communities:

- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/index.html)

### Yakima County COVID-19 Resources:

- [www.yakimacounty.us/AlertCenter.aspx](http://www.yakimacounty.us/AlertCenter.aspx)

### Klickitat County COVID-19 Resources:

- [www.klickitatcounty.org/1187/COVID-19](http://www.klickitatcounty.org/1187/COVID-19)

### Center for American Indian Health COVID-19 Resources:

- <http://caih.jhu.edu/news/covid19>

### American Indian Health Commission COVID 19 Resources:

- <https://aihc-wa.com/incident-responses-and-other-news/>

### One Community Health COVID-19 Resources:

- <https://www.onecommunityhealth.org/fema-vaccine-unit>

### Columbia River Tribal Fishers Resources During COVID:

- <https://www.critfc.org/safe-fishers-safe-fisheries/>