



ASTORIA  
WARRENTON

*The Spirit of the Columbia*

January 8, 2021

Governor Kate Brown and  
Oregon Health Authority  
900 Court St NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Request for data or guidance modification

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of 580 business members, particularly restaurants, indoor recreation, indoor entertainment members, the Astoria Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce has been asking for some time for data on the efficacy of the full closures required in the "Extreme Risk" category versus the still severe capacity limits outlined under the "High Risk" category. In other words, do outright bans on these indoor activities actually prevent infections?

To date, no such data or cogent rationale has been forthcoming. In the absence of that data, we are requesting that the Governor and Oregon Health Authority modify the Sector Risk Level Guidance under the Extreme Risk Level as follows:

- **Indoor Eating and Drinking Establishments:**
  - Remove "*Indoor dining prohibited*"
  - Insert "*Indoor capacity: not to exceed 25% maximum occupancy or 50 people, whichever is smaller*" (identical to indoor dining guidance from "High Risk" level)
- **Indoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments:**
  - Remove "*Prohibited*"
  - Insert "*Capacity: 25% occupancy or 50 people total, whichever is smaller*" (identical to indoor recreation and fitness guidance from "High Risk" level).
- **Indoor Entertainment Establishments:**
  - Remove "*Prohibited*"
  - Insert "*Capacity: 25% occupancy or 50 people total, whichever is smaller*" (identical to indoor recreation and fitness guidance from "High Risk" level).

These business owners fully understand the real and present danger of rising COVID rates. Neither they nor we are suggesting trading public health for commerce. We simply need to have confidence that the sacrifices they and their employees are making are truly or at least likely preventing infection.

If there is research, educated opinion, or other data available to support the outright bans, the businesses have a right to see it so they can comply knowing they are doing so for the greater good.

David L. Reid, Executive Director

CHAMBER of COMMERCE