June 17, 2020

Polk County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Craig Pope
850 Main Street
Dallas, OR 97338

Dear Commissioner Pope,

Thank you for the effort you, your hospitals, and your public health experts put into your plans for demonstrating your county’s preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After careful review of your application, as well as a review of statewide data today with the Oregon Health Authority, I have made the decision to approve your county’s application for entry into Phase 2, effective Friday, June 19.

In addition, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and my Medical Advisory Panel, I have made two other decisions:

1. OHA will soon be issuing guidance requiring the wearing of face coverings for all individuals in indoor public settings in the greater Salem metro area, comprised of both Marion and Polk counties. This is a mandate and will go into effect Wednesday, June 24.
2. The state’s second largest city, Salem, straddles both Marion and Polk counties. Given this geography, for future evaluation of public health indicators OHA will begin providing data showing combined totals for Marion and Polk counties together. Future decisions around modifications to restrictions and movement within phases for these two counties will likely apply to both counties as one geographic unit.

Thank you for all of your hard work to keep Oregonians safe during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Governor Kate Brown