

Benton-Franklin Health District
www.bfhd.wa.gov

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7102 West Okanogan Place

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES MODIFIED PHASE 1 ACTIVITIES EXPANDED AGAIN

Benton and Franklin Counties have once again been approved for more business and recreational activities beginning Thursday, August 27. Newly allowed activities include small outdoor fitness classes, small social gatherings, photography, in-home domestic services, professional services, and team gymnastics. Restaurants and churches may offer limited indoor seating.

“Benton-Franklin Health District and our community leaders have continued to work closely with Washington State Department of Health to safely expand activities,” said Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer at Benton-Franklin Health District. “Our community has pulled together to decrease disease activity and it shows. If we follow established safety measures while enjoying our increased activities, we can continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to the point that we can safely open more businesses and have students return to their classrooms.”

While Benton and Franklin Counties remain in modified Phase 1 of the [Safe Start Phased Reopening Plan](#), many of the expanded activities are the same as Phase 2. Those include outdoor fitness classes, social gatherings, professional services, photography, in-home/domestic services, team gymnastics, and outdoor card rooms.

The following activities have been added:

- Outdoor group fitness classes up to five people plus an instructor
- Social gatherings outdoors with five or fewer non-household members per week
- Professional services with 25% of building occupancy and 30-minute limit
- Professional photography
- Domestic services
- Restaurants indoor seating allowed at 25% of building capacity
- Wineries, breweries, distilleries, and taverns indoor seating allowed at 25% of building capacity if they meet Liquor Control Board food service requirements

-more-

Benton-Franklin Health District Website
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Washington Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov

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- Religious services may offer indoor services at 25% of room capacity or up to 50 people, whichever is less
- Team gymnastics, including training for USA gymnastics
- Outdoor card rooms with a limit of 50 people plus staff
- In-store retail indoor capacity increased to 30% of building occupancy
- Real estate with guest occupancy of 25% occupancy and indoor services limited to 30 minutes
- Drive-in events follow Phase 2 guidance

BFHD urges residents to continue to exercise caution when engaging in all activities, including maintaining six feet of physical distance with non-household members, wearing face coverings in public, avoiding gatherings with more than a few people, and washing or sanitizing hands frequently.

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A complete copy with links to the appropriate guidances and requirements is attached.

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