

*7/17/2020* – **Yakima/Benton/Franklin County Update:** Late yesterday, Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, issued a letter to the Yakima and Benton/Franklin County health districts, stating that breweries and wineries may not open with restaurants in those counties for 50% outside seating capacity, unless the breweries and wineries operate a kitchen for full meal service, on-site. You can find Secretary Wiesman’s letter [here](#).

While breweries and wineries are classified as “restaurants” under the Safe Start plan, Yakima/Benton/Franklin county reopenings are not a typical Phase 1.5, but a modified Phase 1 with very limited reopenings, tailored specifically to fit three counties that continue to see high rates of coronavirus transmission.

We know that breweries in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties have been working diligently to put together safe operating plans, are committed to the safety of their employees and customers, and are eager to welcome customers back after 4 long months of on-premise closures. We have been working with the WA Wine Institute all week in efforts to ensure breweries and wineries would be able to open alongside local restaurants, as we have in every other Safe Start phase advancement to date.

We’re disappointed by these developments and will continue to work with state and local leaders to get parity with our restaurant counterparts with regards to reopenings. Breweries statewide have demonstrated that they are committed to complying with all requirements of reopenings and are going above and beyond to keep their businesses and communities safe. We will provide updates as we have them.