

June 2, 2020

Bruce Dammeier, Executive  
Pierce County  
920 Tacoma Avenue South  
Tacoma WA 98402

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO MOVE TO SAFE START PHASE 2**

I am pleased to convey to you the completed application for Pierce County to move to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Recovery Plan.

Pierce County has made great strides in addressing the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Under the leadership of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and with the close support of Pierce County, City of Tacoma, and other government organizations we have put in place structures that will allow us to manage the impacts of this disease.

We do not yet meet all of the state's established Phase 2 targets. We are very close on some measures, have robust infrastructure, and have solid trend data that shows us moving steadily in the right direction. I believe Pierce County is ready to begin reopening our economy and I believe our application will be successful.

To sustain our success, we will need continued leadership at every level to reinforce messages that this epidemic is not over. Residents must continue to take measures to protect their health and the health of others. This is a message of compassion and concern for everyone in our community. Less than 1% of Pierce County residents have experienced this disease. That means 99% of Pierce County residents could become ill with COVID-19.

If this application is approved, and our economy reopens in small steps, we will need to fully invest in our case contact and investigation structure so Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department employees can return to other critical public health activities.

We are deepening our work with disproportionately impacted communities so that we hear their voices in developing strategies to reduce this disease and mitigate its impacts in their communities.

The full application packet conveyed with this memo describes our response system in detail. I urge you to support this application and convey it to John Wiesman, Washington State Secretary of Health.

Sincerely,



Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH  
Director of Health