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

**Centers for Disease Control**  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## South Central Washington Region Approved to Move to Phase 2

Benton-Franklin Health District was advised today that after the South Central Region's metrics were updated on Thursday, Feb. 11, it was brought to the attention of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) that there appeared to be a discrepancy in one of region's hospital's metrics. The DOH facilitated a review of the hospital's admission data and confirmed there were errors in reporting. The data was recalculated and the new metrics were reported today as listed below:

1. Trend in 14-day rate of COVID-19 cases per 100K: down 41%
2. Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100K: down 19%
3. Average 7-day percent of ICU staffed bed occupancy: 86%
4. 7-day percent of positivity COVID-19 tests: 14%

The first three metrics reflect a "decreasing or low" trend - moving the South Central Washington region to Phase 2 of the Health Washington Roadmap to Recovery Plan effective immediately. Additional information about these metrics is available [here](#).

Regions must meet three of the four metrics in order to move to, and stay in, Phase 2 of the [Recovery plan](#). The DOH provides metrics every other week to determine phasing with the next set of metrics being released by Feb. 26 and effective March 1.

Phase 2 allows for ease of some industry restrictions including, but not limited to, updates to the following guidance\*:

- Indoor dining allowed at 25% capacity
- Indoor fitness, up to moderate risk, at 25% capacity
- Indoor entertainment at 25% capacity
- Home gatherings indoors at 5 people outside the household - and outdoors at 15 people of two households
- Weddings and funerals at 25% capacity or 200 individuals, whichever is less
- Outdoor entertainment in groups of 15 of two households and a maximum overall capacity of 200 people.

\*Guidance for all industries is available at [covid19.bfhd.wa.gov](https://www.bfhd.wa.gov/covid19) under What's Open.

Benton-Franklin Health District urges residents to continue exercising caution when engaging in activities. Maintain six feet of physical distance with non-household members, wear face coverings in public, avoid large gatherings, and wash or sanitize hands frequently.

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