



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: COVID-19 Business Closures

Dear Governor Inslee,

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) takes safety very seriously and shares your commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all Washingtonians.

As you know, the temporary four-week closure of restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, movie theaters and fitness centers has exacerbated the already serious economic crisis. With closures set to end on December 14, numerous businesses have indicated they fear the closure will not be lifted until a vaccine is available sometime in the spring. If that happens, many of them will suffer devastating effects – including permanent closure.

With few exceptions, businesses in the food, entertainment and fitness industries observe and enforce safety guidelines for air quality, capacity limitations, cleaning, social distance, face coverings and contact tracing. Businesses in these industries are following the same stringent guidelines as other businesses that are currently permitted to be open – such as retail business, personal service providers and financial institutions.

Data included in the most current Washington State Department of Health's *Statewide COVID Outbreak Report* (which includes outbreaks by setting) confirms that restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, movie theaters or fitness centers are not at greater risk for spreading COVID-19 than any other business when following safety guidelines.

For these reasons, the TCRCC urges you to lift the temporary closures immediately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Mattson".

Lori Mattson, IOM  
President & CEO  
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Arneson".

Jim Arneson  
President, Community First Bank  
Chair, Local Govt Affairs Committee