



August 28, 2020

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

The Honorable John Wiesman, Secretary of Health
Washington State Department of Health
111 Israel Rd.
Tumwater, WA 98501

Re: Modified Phase 1 Recommendations for the Indoor Fitness Industry in Benton and Franklin Counties

Dear Governor Inslee and Secretary Wiesman,

Thank you for working with the Washington Fitness Alliance to help find solutions for the indoor fitness and sports industry during the global pandemic.

Under the direction of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-City Fitness Coalition has been formed to support efforts in expanding modified Phase 1 to include the reopening of fitness facilities (staffed indoor fitness studios, independent sports and fitness training, gyms, multi-use indoor fitness facilities providing private instruction, personal fitness training and/or specialized equipment) at a limited use of up to 25% and allow supervised indoor training up to an 1:10 employee to student ratio.

As you know, Benton and Franklin Counties are still in modified Phase 1 and fitness clubs have not had revenue of any kind for over 6 months. Without phase progression or eased restrictions, the fitness industry will be at a standstill throughout the rest of 2020 and because most fitness-related businesses are small, closely held, or family businesses with limited working capital, many will not survive. Hundreds of employees will be unable to provide for their families and thousands of members who rely on fitness services - especially our most vulnerable populations - will suffer the most.

Fitness services are essential for the physical and mental well-being of our community and is part of the solution to the global pandemic. Opening fitness centers in modified Phase 1 makes sense for the following reasons:

- Exercise increases immune strength, decreases stress and fatigue, promotes mental and physical health (Many studies have shown how isolation caused by the COVID 19 outbreak is increasing suicide ideation, domestic violence, anxiety and stress.)
- Allows patrons to exercise in a safe, clean, regulated setting
- Staff ensures patrons adhere to all DOH/CDC recommendations and safe operating guidelines (sanitation, distancing, pre-entrance health checks, etc.)
- Existing HVAC system requirements for fitness/health centers are engineered to handle capacity requirements

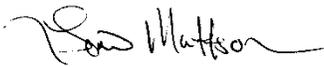
- Vulnerable populations need access: the elderly, as well as those who need to lower blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, and those who cannot afford or do not have space for exercise equipment
- Allows patrons to exercise in inclement weather conditions (This region has experienced over two weeks of cumulative temperatures over 100 degrees – making outdoor exercise highly unsafe.)
- In many areas of the Tri-Cities, there are not sidewalks, bike lanes, or walking paths – which makes it difficult for many of our clients to “get outside” to exercise.
- Lack of exercise exacerbates many pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure, type II diabetes, high cholesterol, and many other life-threatening diseases.

For these reasons, the Tri-City Fitness Coalition urges your support in making immediate changes to modified Phase 1, allowing fitness and health facilities to reopen at up to 25% capacity and allow supervised indoor training up to an 1:10 employee to student ratio.

There is an urgent need to help the citizens of this great state to stay healthy, happy and safe.

Respectfully yours,

The Tri-City Fitness Coalition:



Lori Mattson, President/CEO
Tri-City Regional Chamber (TCRCC)



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



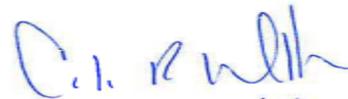
Len Softich, Owner
Mid-Columbia Gymnastics Academy, Kennewick



Bryan Smith, General Manager
Gold's Gym, Kennewick



Danna Williams, Co-Owner
CrossFit Unrestrained, Kennewick



Cole R. Willis, General Manager
Columbia Basin Racquet Club, Richland



Heather L. Anastos, Director
Yoga Community LLC, Kennewick



Carl M. Cadwell, Owner
LifeQuest Fitness, Pasco



Nicole Derryberry, Owner
KAT Fitness & 9Round, Kennewick



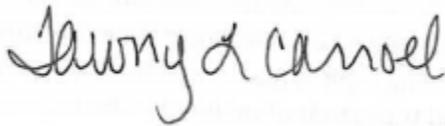
Joel Roggo, Owner
Tri-Cities Academy of Ballet, Richland



Sharon Smith, General Manager
Gold's Gym, Richland



Linda Mullen, Franchisee Operator
Planet Fitness, Yakima/Kennewick/Pasco/Richland



Tawney L. Carroll, Manager
Anahata Yoga Studio, Richland



Erik Roach, Owner & Instructor
U.S. World Class Taekwondo, Richland/Pasco



Pedro Torres, CEO/Head Coach
Movement Athletics / Torres & Associates LLC

cc: State Health Officer Kathy Lofy
8th District Legislators
9th District Legislators
16th District Legislators
Benton County Administrator & Commission
Franklin County Administrator & Commission
Pasco City Manager & Mayor
Kennewick City Manager & Mayor
Richland City Manager & Mayor
West Richland City Manager & Mayor