

May 21, 2020

Good morning,

You may have seen that late yesterday Gov. Brown gave the go-ahead to Polk and Marion counties to begin phase one reopening procedures starting tomorrow, May 22. This is an exciting—but cautious—first step toward a return to pre-COVID-19 activities for our region.

However, I want to underscore that **phase one will not immediately affect the day-to-day practices we have in place at WOU**. Phase one does not allow in-person classes, the gathering of large groups, or the reopening of campus to the public. Students will continue remote learning as they have all term, and employees will continue working at the location directed by their supervisors and consistent with Executive Orders 20-12 and 20-17.

Phase one for Polk and Marion Counties will last a *minimum* of 21 days, so if those counties are allowed to advance to phase two, it will be after the academic year ends.

Fortunately, being in phase one is advantageous to the university in a significant way as it encourages us to continue to make plans for fall term using a more focused set of scenarios.

I appreciate everyone's patience and perseverance through spring term, and I am heartened that the light at the end of the tunnel may have been switched on. Once again, the dedication of our WOU community to student achievement inspires me, and this unprecedented time has proven that together we succeed.

Best wishes,



Rex Fuller, President