



Oregon

Central Oregon Regional Solutions Center
1011 SW Emkay Dr., Suite 108
Bend, OR 97702

May 12, 2021

Mr. Dan Richer
Mayor
City of La Pine
P.O. Box 2460
La Pine, OR 97739

VIA E-MAIL: dricher@lapineoregon.gov

Thank you for forwarding the letter from Council to Governor Brown dated May 4th.

Governor Brown understands and empathizes with the challenges businesses and communities have faced throughout the pandemic especially, when in the “extreme” risk category. As a result, additional metrics related to hospital capacity and increases in hospitalization were added as triggers for the “extreme” risk category. Fortunately, hospitalizations started to drop off and those counties who were moved into “extreme risk” were only in that risk category for one week (April 30-May 6th). As of Friday May 7th, Deschutes County was moved into high risk and the restrictions on indoor dining and indoor capacity limits were loosened.

The governor recognizes the serious impact that extreme risk has on businesses and has secured \$20M for business relief for businesses in counties who were moved into this category on April 30th. Deschutes County has received, or will soon receive, more than \$1.3M to provide grants to businesses who were impacted by the move to extreme risk. I understand that the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council will be deploying these funds on behalf of the county and will ensure that the chamber and city are aware of these grant opportunities as soon as applications are being taken.

Finally, Deschutes County has done well in vaccinating its residents. We are hopeful that as a result, the county will move to low risk very soon and stay there until the statewide vaccination rate reaches 70%. At that time, most restrictions will be removed; we anticipate that the statewide vaccination rate will be met before the beginning of July.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Annette Liebe, JD
Regional Solutions Coordinator
Office of Governor Kate Brown