Key Metrics to Guide Public Health Decision-Making during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following set of metrics will be use to guide public health decision-making throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The targets represent the ideal state. The state and/or counties will not necessarily need to meet all targets in order to move to the next phase in the "Safe Start Washington" plan. Likewise, the state and/or counties will not necessarily need to drop to a previous phase if targets are not maintained. While these metrics are important, other factors will be considered in public health decision-making.

COVID-19 Activity	Incidence of new cases reported during prior two weeks	Target: <10 cases / 100,000 / 14 days
	Reproductive rate by region	Target: $R_e < 1$
Healthcare system readiness	% licensed beds occupied by patients (i.e., hospital census relative to licensed beds)	Targets: Green: <80% (Yellow: 81-90%; Red: >90%)
	% licensed beds occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases	Target: Green: <10% (Yellow: 11-20%; Red: >20%)
Testing	Average number of tests performed per day during the past week (or average % tests positive for COVID-19 during the past week)	Target: 50 times the number of cases (or 2%)
	Median time from symptom onset to specimen collection among cases during the past week	Target: median <2 days
Case and contact investigations	Percent of cases reached by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of positive lab test report	Target: 90%
	Percent of contacts reached by phone or in person within 48 hours of receipt of positive lab test report on a case	Target: 80%
Protecting high-risk populations	Number of outbreaks reported by week (defined as 2 or more non-household cases epidemiologically linked within 14 days in a workplace, congregate living or institutional setting)	Target: 0 for small counties (<75,000), 1 for medium counties (75,000-300,000), 2 for large counties (>300,000)