

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*On behalf of- City of Hood River, City of Cascade Locks, Hood River County,*

*Port of Hood River, Port of Cascade Locks & Hood River County Chamber of Commerce*

**HOOD RIVER CITY, COUNTY, AND TOURISM OFFICIALS SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE:  
STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES. HOOD RIVER IS CLOSED FOR RECREATION**  
**Recent spikes in day use, particularly during nice weather and on weekends, has officials  
concerned about safety for residents and visitors alike**

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — With this weekend’s forecast calling for sunny skies and warm temperatures throughout Oregon, Hood River city, Cascade Locks city, Hood River county and tourism officials have a clear message for those considering a day trip to Hood River: we all love Hood River, but for the health and safety of all Oregonians we are closed for recreation.

“As a city and county, we love and thrive on visitors enjoying our natural resources and businesses, but now is not the time to do so,” said Hood River mayor, Kate McBride. “On behalf of the Hood River Community we ask you to please stay home and enjoy the weather in your own backyard. The time will come to return to Hood River, and when it does, we will welcome you with open arms. Until then, we ask that you please do the right thing.”

Hood River County and City officials, together with other community organizations, are working tirelessly to flatten the curve in the community and throughout Oregon, and are asking all Oregonians and SW Washington residents to do their part to help by heeding this plea.

According to data from Google’s most recent [COVID-19 Oregon Mobility Report](#), social distancing measures are having a noticeable impact across most major categories of out-of-home travel. Usage of and visitation to parks, particularly on weekends, however, is up as much as 80 percent over baseline figures which has Hood River officials concerned.

In addition to Gov. Kate Brown’s ban on all non-essential travel statewide, the following closures and restrictions in Hood River County have been implemented out of concerns for public safety, a further indication that now is not the time to visit Hood River County:

- Closure of all waterfront parks, paths, boat launch, restrooms, garbage service, and beaches under the jurisdictions of the [Port of Hood River](#) and [Port of Cascade Locks](#)
- Closure of all lodging facilities, parks, and public gathering places as mandated by the [City of Hood River](#)
- Closure of all parks, public gathering places, trails (Post Canyon), and lands by the [County of Hood River](#)

- Closure of all Forest Service lands in the [Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area](#) (both Oregon and Washington) closed to recreation
- All non-essential travel is banned- [State of Oregon](#)

“At this time and for the foreseeable future, Hood River’s focus is where it should be - on the health and safety of our community,” said Deputy Joel Ives, Hood River County Sheriff’s Office. “Our resources are already stretched thin, and visitors to the County place critical strains on our ability to take care of our community. As a society, we all need to heed the advice, restrictions, and mandates that are directing us to stay home, and to make plans to visit Hood River only when it is deemed safe and acceptable to do so.”

For the latest updates and information on travel restrictions and closures in Hood River County, please visit the [Hood River County](#), [City of Hood River](#), [City of Cascade Locks](#), or [Visit Hood River](#) websites.

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