

COVID-19

COVID-19 has led to unprecedented economic disruption resulting in the loss of businesses and the livelihoods of thousands across the region. Given the persistent presence of viruses, we must learn to live with COVID-19 in a way that protects our medically vulnerable and our economic viability. All institutions, whether business, non-profit, government, education or the like will have to adapt in various ways to be successful. We must remain vigilant and explore what has and has not worked

to protect all facets of our community's welfare. Persistent economic downturns result in large increases in social and health needs including worsening living standards, a reduction in overall well-being, decreased educational achievement, increased rates of suicide and mental health issues, many of which stem from unemployment. These social and health needs are likely to lead to an increase in inequalities and social fragmentation.

Guiding Principles

- » The Chamber understands that commerce is crucial to the health and wellbeing of all people in the region and the ability to live with COVID-19.
- » The Chamber supports decision making authority evolving to the local level and be supported by relevant data, information, and resources to assist public health agencies.
- » The Chamber supports robust community engagement that facilitates the region's momentum, credibility, and commitment to resiliency.

WVCC Goals

- » Safely and sustainably re-open all businesses and return employees to work by ending inequitable criteria and using standards-based criteria for being open.
- » Facilitate robust community engagement with local, state and federal health authorities to share information leading to decisions in the best interest of Chelan and Douglas County residents.
- » Continue to take positions and conduct the operations of the WVCC in a fashion that further establishes the WVCC as a credible resource and trusted advocate at all levels of government.
- » Assist local, state, and federal government leaders in making informed decisions on future financial assistance.
- » Identify and secure tools for assessing regional economic impact and recovery. Use regional data to inform state budget and policy decisions to achieve stability and predictability.