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Business volume wise, this is really nice for a Friday, you know? We couldn't be happier at this point. It's a good turnout. We're up to about five jackpots so far this morning. We've been counting and taking pictures."

And so far, the resort has not received any push-back from the instituted safety precautions.

"We haven't had any complaints," Colton said. "Everybody understands the rules and they appreciate everything we've done. It's a good feeling."

The precautions are noticeable from the outset as guests arrive.

"We've got one point of entry, and that's at our main door, and all the other doors are exit only," Colton said.

Once through the main entrance, guests are asked to have their temperatures checked with a touchless monitor that scans guests' foreheads.

"It works really well," Colton said, showing off how the machine works.

He slightly lowered his mask for the machine to read his face. If a temperature is in excess of 11.4 degrees, guests are asked to leave until the fever subsides. But in Colton's case, a greenlight flashed on the screen in front of him, clearing him to enter.

"We are doing this for team members, too," Colton said. "When they come into the back of the house to come to work, they get their temperatures checked, sanitize and get their PPE (personal protective equipment) for the day."

All guests are required to wear face coverings inside the building, and are asked to lift their masks when drinking, smoking or eating on the casino floor.

Guests are also asked to bring their own masks. While the resort does have



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



**Three Rivers Casino Resort, 5647 Highway 126, reopened yesterday with a robust set of guidelines concerning sanitation and safety of both guests and staff.**



a limited supply of PPE available for guests without a mask, Colton said it's been difficult procuring them due to nationwide shortages, and asks everyone to bring their own.

Latex gloves are also available to any guest upon request, but they are not required.

After a security guard checks and scans identification of all guests entering the building, guests are free to play the majority of games on the floor, with the exception of live poker, which is still closed until further notice.

"We've turned off about half of the slot machines here, as well as taken away slot machine chairs," Colton said, which allows

for social distancing when people sit at machines. He also stated that many machines have been repositioned to ensure more popular machines are available.

Table games, such as blackjack and pai gow, are still open, with modifications.

"We're only allowing three players per table," Colton said. "We've got the plexiglass up to protect the dealer and the players. And then every half hour or so, we sanitize. We change the cards out every hour."

Hand sanitizer is also available to players at the tables, as well as touchless sanitizer stations throughout the casino floor.

"We're taking every precaution we can," Colton emphasized.

Nearly every counter in the resort has a plexiglass barrier, from the player services booth to the hotel reservations desk. They are also prevalent in the resort's two restaurants that will be open.

"We've got all our tables spaced out for social distancing," Colton said, pointing to the floor space of Blue Bills Sports Bar and Tap Room, where roughly half of the tables have been taken out.

"We've got our plexiglass up here with our orders to go and as you see, we have everybody spread out," Colton said. "Everything's been changed to

single serve condiments. Nothing is reusable."

Soda self-service stations have been turned off for now, though the resort has touchless dispensing machines on order.

"Getting everything has been a challenge," Colton said.

In addition, Three Rivers' hotel resort is open, but with limited capacity. Early check in and late check out will not be permitted, and room amenities, such as water bottles and coffee, will only be available upon request.

"For cleaning the hotel, we have electrostatic sprayers that we're using to disinfect. They do all the rooms," Colton said.

The casino floor and

restaurants go through constant cleaning as well. Instead of being open 24 hours a day as normal, the casino will close between the hours of 3 and 7 a.m. to disinfect.

"We're doing a deep clean on the floor with those sprayers, vacuuming and wiping down everything," Colton said. "All the high touch points, we'll hit really hard. But all throughout the day, we're still hitting them as well."

The opening of the casino comes as Oregon inches its way back into reopening. While Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority have instituted a number of requirements for reopening, Three Rivers is going beyond those requirements with the myriad of safety measures it has instituted.

On the same token, Brown has also asked, but not required, for residents over the age of 60 to remain sheltered in place, and discourages individuals from traveling beyond their immediate communities. However, it's not required and the Siuslaw region has already seen a slight uptick in visitors since some restrictions were lifted.

Colton believes that reopening the casino will see more people come to the region from outside areas, but it's not making a large push for out-of-area visitors.

"We're expecting our normal crowd from Eugene, to be honest," he said. "But beyond that, I'm not expecting a whole lot of people from Portland to come down yet. I think it's going to take longer for that, and that's okay. We don't mind a slow start to this. This is all new for all of us. If we can tiptoe into this and slowly get going, we're happy with that."

For more information, visit [www.threeriverscasino.com](http://www.threeriverscasino.com).

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"We've got very clear signage that tells everybody to stay six feet apart. This upcoming Friday and Saturday Halibut season starts at all depths, and it doesn't look like the weather is going to be that good for anybody to be able to get out and fish, so I don't expect to see any issues this weekend either."

Commissioners added their observations that the launching and landings of watercrafts went well and the same should be expected this weekend when traffic in and around the Port will increase due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Commission Chairman Terry Duman agreed with Huntington's assessment and seemed pleased with the reopening of the boat launch.

"I had the opportunity to

talk with Dave during the week and I feel very comfortable, personally, with what is going on," Duman said.

The discussion then turned to the issue of reopening the campground at the port.

Huntington said the staff and the facility were ready to reopen although he was somewhat hesitant to open this weekend just in case there were unexpectedly large crowds.

"Well, right now we don't know of any state parks that are opening up for overnight use, but some county parks are starting to open up and other ports are starting to open up their campgrounds with guidance," Huntington said.

The meeting was held on Wednesday, after which the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department announced that it will offer

limited camping at many state park campgrounds beginning June 9.

Meyer, who was at the Port of Siuslaw Office and moderating the meeting, offered advice regarding the schedule for reopening other ports along the coast.

"For three weeks now I've been on a Zoom meeting with representatives from the governor and representatives from the other commissions on the central and north coast," he said. "One of the things they were urging is that everybody kind of open at the same time, and it sounds like in the next few days all of them will be reopening."

There was a general sense of agreement with Meyer and Huntington's comments from the commissioners.

Huntington suggested putting in place guidance for port visitors moving

forward.

"We have come up with a Port of Siuslaw Overnight Campground and Recreation policy, with rules set in place that we think would allow us to safely reopen the campground for overnight camping if the rules are followed," he said. "We will probably wait 'til after this weekend, because it might be a little hectic for us to get things together."

Huntington suggested reopening the campground sometime next week, to allow for a gradual ramp up of services and staff under the new and evolving regulations from the state, county and the city.

Commissioners were receptive to the port manager's suggestions and Meyer put the safety of the staff as the priority of the Port Commission.

"Rather than rush this, we want to do this so staff is

comfortable and make sure that things go smoothly, and I think it would be unwise to do it on what could be a very busy weekend," Meyer said.

The rest of the commission agreed with Huntington's plan to phase in the reopening next week as crowds thinned after the Memorial Day holiday.

The Port of Siuslaw later announced the reopen date for the campground will be Tuesday, May 26.

To ensure the Port of Siuslaw's ability to provide overnight recreational opportunities at the facility, the following guidelines shall be followed by all users:

1. Gathering of people must be limited to no more than ten (10) people.
2. Maintain a six (6) foot distance from others at all times.
3. Stay in the comfort

and safety of your RV and your site when not participating in recreational activities.

4. Use your own RV's bathroom facilities.

5. Do not allow visitors to your RV and site.

6. RV's and campers shall not park with primary access door facing the primary access door of your neighbor.

7. Limit those staying in your RV to members of your immediate family/household.

8. Most importantly, if you or a member of your family is feeling sick, please stay at home.

Failure, by any individual or group, to follow all applicable COVID 19 guidelines will constitute a violation of Port policy and may lead to a denial of services.

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