

## How Washington State Beats Back Virus with Public-Private Partnerships



The Evergreen State was one of the first to be hit with the COVID-19 virus last year. But they've beaten it back through a united front of the public and private sectors.

[On this week's \*Path Forward\*](#), a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation event series, U.S. Chamber President and CEO-Elect Suzanne Clark was joined by Gov. Jay Inslee (D), Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, and Shannon Garcia, senior vice president of U.S. operations at Starbucks, to talk about how their organizations are using their particular strengths to fight the pandemic.

### Key takeaways:

- “We’ve established a plan to reopen our economy dependent on metrics,” said Gov. Inslee. “We’re data driven and we’re science driven. I think it’s one of the reasons we have succeeded in saving thousands of lives and keeping one of the best economic stories in the country.”
- In our case, what we have done is partner with two local hospitals,” Smith explained. “They were able to move all of their vaccination work to our conference center. And then by being here, we were able to work with them to grow their capacity.”
- “Clearly, we are not experts in healthcare, but we certainly are experts in delivering customer experience,” said Garcia. “We focused on things like minimizing wait times, increasing efficiencies for the patients.”

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