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## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

### STATE-BY-STATE NEWS – April 21, 2020

#### Reopening the Economy

- President Trump announced a proposed measure to [reopen the economy in three phases](#) last week at a daily coronavirus briefing. Trump gave state governors the [proposed plan](#). Trump suggested that governors will be empowered to make the decisions regarding stay-at-home orders and will be supported by the federal government. In the first phase of reopening, the document suggests schools that are currently closed should remain so. Large venues can operate under strict social distancing protocols. Gyms can open as long as they maintain social distancing guidelines, but bars should remain shuttered.
- President Trump said certain states that are not battling a coronavirus outbreak could [open for business](#) immediately if they meet the criteria laid out by the White House. He said the current CDC social distancing guidelines should remain in place unless a governor determines it has gone 14 days with a low-enough number of cases to satisfy the new reopening guidelines.

#### Northeast Coalition

- Seven northeast governors [formed a working group](#) to develop plans to reopen the regional economy – **New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Massachusetts**.
- Each state [appointed](#) a public health official, an economic development official and the governor's chief of staff to form the working group, which began working on a restart program last week.
- New York Gov. Cuomo said he is open to coordinating with additional neighbor states but emphasized the need for a plan that can be agreed upon quickly. "We need coordination with New Jersey and Connecticut first and foremost because that's where our workforce comes from," he said. "That's the primary place for coordination."
- Cuomo has hired high-powered consultants, McKinsey & Co., to [develop a science-based plan](#) for the safe economic reopening of the region.
  - McKinsey & Co. is producing models on testing, infections and other key data points that will underpin decisions on how and when to reopen the region's economy.
  - Cuomo has also recalled three former top aides: Bill Mulrow, a senior adviser at Blackstone Group; Steven Cohen, an executive vice president and CEO of MacAndrews & Forbes Inc; and Larry Schwartz, a deputy Westchester County executive.
  - Deloitte is also involved in the plan.
- When Pennsylvania's stay-at-home order expires May 8, Gov. Tom Wolf has said he plans to [ease restrictions](#) starting then on construction, curbside alcohol pickup and vehicle sales.

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- Gov. Gina Raimondo’s playbook for [gradually reopening](#) Rhode Island’s economy in coming months depends on meeting key indicators of societal readiness that, if successful, will see the young and healthy spring free from their home confines sooner than more vulnerable seniors. Speaking at her daily news conference Monday, Raimondo outlined [six key questions](#) that will have to be resolved before doors start to open again.

#### West Coast Coalition

- The governors of **California, Oregon** and **Washington** agreed on a [regional pact](#) to reopen the economy and fight the pandemic. The public health leaders in the three states will focus on four main goals:
  - Protecting vulnerable populations at risk such as those in nursing homes
  - Ensuring care for those who may contract Covid-19
  - Mitigating the non-direct health impacts of the virus on disadvantaged communities
  - Protecting the public by ensuring the lifting of restrictions comes with adequate testing
- Gov. Gavin Newsom also spelled out [six criteria](#) that his own state of California must meet before the state’s stay-at-home order can be modified or lifted.

#### Midwest Coalition

- **Illinois** Gov. JB Pritzker and six regional colleagues are working together to judge when best to start easing stay-at-home restrictions and reopen their states’ economies. The governors of **Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana,** and **Kentucky** signed on to the multistate pact.
- In a statement announcing the coalition, the governors said they will closely examine at least four factors before reopening:
  - “Sustained control” of the rate of new infections and hospitalizations
  - Enhanced ability to test and trace
  - “Sufficient health care capacity” to handle any resurgence
  - “Best practices” for social distancing
- Many of these states generally show signs of flattening the growth in COVID-related cases and deaths—both Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot say they [see that happening](#)—but the situation varies from state to state and within states.
- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who imposed one of the [strictest stay-at-home orders](#) in the nation, [said](#) that she hoped to loosen the regulations on May 1.
- On Monday, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said he had a good conversation with President Donald Trump about [efforts to reopen](#) more businesses. Walz allowed some recreational activities, including golfing, boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, to restart on April 18.

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- Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the state economy will begin the [process of reopening](#) on May 1.
  - Former Ohio Govs. Richard Celeste and Bob Taft will lead a Testing Strike Team, DeWine announced Tuesday evening. The former governors will work with Ohio leaders from business, academia, and public health to be part of the effort to help Ohio source critical testing items such as reagents, according to DeWine.
- Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers recently [loosened restrictions](#) on nonessential businesses and [said](#) that golf courses could open with certain restrictions and for-hire lawn care could be carried out if it was performed by one person. Evers also loosened restrictions on nonessential businesses. He did, however, extend Wisconsin's stay at home order for another month.
- **Iowa**, Illinois' neighbor to the west, "[chose not to be a part](#)" of the partnership, Pritzker said, noting it's the only state in the region that has not issued a stay-home order. The governors of **Missouri**, **North Dakota** and **South Dakota** also declined to join the partnership. Of those, only Missouri has issued a stay-at-home order.

#### States' Plans

- **Alabama's** stay-at-home order [will remain in effect](#) until April 30, Gov. Kay Ivey said at a news conference Tuesday. Gov. Kay Ivey plans to follow [state task force recommendations](#), which include first allowing small retailers, restaurants and other businesses to reopen with protective measures in place.
- **Alaska** Gov. Mike Dunleavy said the state will soon outline [plans for opening](#) hair and nail salons, restaurants and retail businesses with added protocols to avoid the spread of coronavirus. He said the state will begin giving details soon and may begin to relax regulations as early as next week. He will also meet with mayors over the phone on Tuesday.
- The Governor's Office told **Arizona** mayors on Monday the state will essentially [mirror President Trump's plan](#) to reopen the economy in phases, but that it's not yet ready to take the first step. "Right now, we do not consider ourselves to be in Phase One, mainly because we haven't hit some of the key metrics that the White House is looking for to enter that phase," Gov. Doug Ducey's policy advisor Ben Blink said.
- **Arkansas** Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced he is aiming to have local economies booming by May 4. Hutchinson announced a [new task force](#) in a press release on Saturday. It is going to be comprised of 27 people from private and public agencies and will start discussions this week.
- **Colorado** will [shift](#) from stay-at-home to "safer at home" as some businesses can begin reopening starting April 27<sup>th</sup> with social distancing measures in place. Gov. Jared Polis said he expects retailers will have the option to reopen with curbside pickup beginning April 27, and then will be able to reopen to limited numbers of in-store customers on May 1, as long as they have social-

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distancing policies in place. Companies likely can reopen offices with 50% of their workforces the following Monday, on May 4, the governor said, although he added that telecommuting should be maximized as much as possible, particularly with older employees.

- **Florida** Gov. Ron DeSantis held the first meeting of the [Re-Open Florida Task Force](#) on Monday. The task force [members](#) include the state's top elected Republicans and representatives from some of the state's largest corporations and trade groups, including Disney, Lockheed Martin, Florida Power & Light, AT&T and the Florida Bankers Association. Task force members will meet every day this week and produce recommendations to DeSantis by Friday.
- Gov. Brian Kemp of **Georgia** joined officials in other states who are moving ahead with plans to [relax restrictions](#). Beginning April 24, residents of Georgia will be allowed to return to the gym and get haircuts, pedicures, massages, and tattoos. Starting April 27, they can dine again in restaurants and go to the movies. Bars, nightclubs, and amusement parks are to remain closed.
- In **Idaho**, the state is beginning to reopen some non-essential businesses, including flower shops and jewelry stores for curbside pickup ahead of Mother's Day.
- **Indiana** Gov. Eric Holcomb announced an executive order on Monday that begins the [slow process of re-opening](#) the state's economy by allowing hospitals to perform elective procedures. On April 27, assuming things keep trending in a positive direction, routine care like dentist's office visits will be reopened. From there, Holcomb has said he is eyeing early May as a time to potentially lessen restrictions on a broader level.
- Gov. Kim Reynolds [plans to reopen Iowa](#) and recharge its economy by using a "responsible and phased-in manner" that aligns with guidance issued by President Donald Trump, she said last week. The governor did not specify which businesses or entities might reopen first, or when they would get the green light to start operating again.
- Gov. John Bel Edwards said **Louisiana** hasn't met all the federal criteria to move into phase one of reopening the state's economy, but the state is on the right track. He said during a briefing last week that Louisiana is using the guidelines from the federal government to begin reopening the state for business. Bel Edwards said the state [could implement a new order](#) after its current stay-at-home order expires on May 1.
- **Maine** Gov. Janet Mills said she is talking with the governors of **New Hampshire** and **Vermont** about how to eventually [reopen the economies](#) of the northern New England states. The plans of the three governors were largely undefined, but they looked to be more informal than other efforts to develop interstate frameworks on lifting stay-at-home orders and other restrictions.
- Governor Larry Hogan announced that over the last several weeks, **Maryland** state officials have been consulting with doctors and public health experts serving on the Coronavirus Response Team to develop a roadmap for the [reopening of Maryland](#) and the state economy. He listed the four building blocks for a recovery plan:
  - Expanding testing capacity

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- Increasing hospital surge capacity
- Ramping up supply of PPE
- Building a robust contact tracing operation
- A new [executive order](#) by **Mississippi** Gov. Tate Reeves opens state lakes and state park lakes for fishing and nonessential businesses for curbside or delivery service. However, Reeves said Mississippians need to shelter in place for one more week before he begins to reopen the state.
- **Missouri** Gov. Mike Parson announced on Facebook that the state continues to put plans in place for the [first phase of reopening](#) Missouri on May 4. Gov. Parson said there will be two phases in the “Show Me Strong” recovery plan from the COVID-19 crisis to protect those most at risk while “returning Missouri to a new normal.”
- **Montana** will start a [“phased reopening”](#) on April 24, Governor Steve Bullock tweeted last week, adding “Because once we begin to reopen, we want to be able to stay open.”
- **Nebraska** Gov. Pete Ricketts announced [plans to reopen](#) after the Directed Health Measure. Starting May 4, Governor Ricketts says elective surgeries, veterinarian services, and dental and optometry services can resume. Ricketts says this is the first step in lifting restrictions.
- Coronavirus numbers in **New Hampshire** have stabilized but the state still has [“a ways to go,”](#) before it reopens, Gov. Chris Sununu said Tuesday afternoon. New Hampshire may take a phased approach to the loosening of the state's stay-at-home order at some point, Sununu said. He went on to say that certain geographic and demographic conditions may mean some people might remain on the stay-at-home order longer than others.
- **New Mexico** Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said she will evaluate the Trump administration’s “Opening Up America Again” guidelines, but made it clear she is [not ready to lift restrictions anytime soon](#).
- **North Carolina** has [not yet meet the threshold](#) to begin reopening the state, Gov. Roy Cooper said at a news conference. Cooper said a task force will lay out guidelines this week on the state’s goals to reopen. The state, he said, has not seen a 14-day decline in cases, as recommended in the White House’s guidance for reopening. While North Carolina’s statewide stay-at-home order is still in place through April 30, some towns have decided to [reopen their beaches](#) with restrictions.
- **North Dakota** Gov. Doug Burgum has set guidelines for a [gradual reopening process](#) after April 30.
- **Oklahoma** Gov. Kevin Stitt [indicated](#) he hopes the state can begin reopening May 1 if the “downward” trend in cases continues. He allowed previously suspended elective surgeries to resume as of April 24.
- In **South Carolina**, Gov. Henry McMaster issued an executive order to [reopen](#) public beaches and allow some retail businesses — such as furniture stores, florists, flea markets, and department stores — to reopen beginning April 20 as long as they follow social distancing measures.

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- On Monday, **Tennessee** Gov. Bill Lee announced the order for residents to remain at home will expire April 30, with most businesses in 89 counties allowed to [re-open](#) on May 1. The state administration will work with Shelby, Madison, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Sullivan counties and their health departments as they plan their own re-open strategies.
- Last week, **Texas** Gov. Greg Abbott issued a series of executive orders to begin the process of [reopening Texas' economy](#). Abbott announced the creation of a team of medical advisers and business leaders who will create strategies of ways to safely reopen businesses.
  - The first step took place on Monday when the administration reopened all state parks. Visitors are required to wear face masks and practice social distancing. Groups are limited to five people or less.
  - On Wednesday, a limited number of nonessential medical surgeries will be allowed, providing that there are enough beds and personal protective equipment. On Friday, retailers will be allowed to offer “retail-to-go,” or curbside pickups to customers who have previously purchased products at retailers.
  - Additional openings will be announced April 27 “after further input from medical staff,” Abbott said.
- Gov. Gary Herbert announced parts of **Utah's** economy could [reopen](#) as early as May 1. Part of that economic reactivation plan included opening gyms and restaurants for dining.
- Gov. Phil Scott of **Vermont** outlined a [five-point plan to reopen the state](#) while continuing to fight the spread of coronavirus during a news conference on Friday. Vermont allowed certain businesses (construction, home appraisers, property management, municipal clerks) [to return to work](#) on April 20 while still observing coronavirus-related precautions. These businesses will be allowed a maximum of two workers.
- Gov. Jim Justice says **West Virginia** must take “baby steps” to [restart its economy](#) while being careful to protect as many citizens as possible from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Justice and other state leaders on Monday said a big component of that effort will be increased capacity to test West Virginians for the virus.

#### National News

- As of Tuesday evening, at least 800,000 people across every state, plus Washington, D.C., and four U.S. territories, have [tested positive](#) for the virus, according to a New York Times database. More than 40,000 in the US have [died](#) – a figure that is increasing by more than 2,000 each day.
- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he had a [“productive” meeting](#) with President Trump at the White House Tuesday. “The big issue was testing as everybody knows that’s going to be the next step as we go forward. And how do we separate the responsibilities and the tasks on testing vis-a-vis a state and the federal government and the acknowledgement that we will need to work together on this. It has to be a real partnership. And I think we had a very good conversation,” he said via phone on MSNBC. The two leaders also spoke about the need for state government

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funding. Cuomo went on to say that Trump seemed “very open and understanding of that” and said he would be open to that in the next round of legislation.

- Congressional negotiators have [reached a deal on a roughly \\$484 billion relief package](#) that includes hundreds of billions of dollars in new funding for small businesses hurt by the coronavirus outbreak along with other priorities like money for hospitals and expanded Covid-19 testing. The Senate swiftly approved the measure Tuesday afternoon and the House of Representatives is slated to consider it on Thursday. President Trump said he would sign it into law. Here is how some of the bill breaks down:
  - \$310 billion is the authorized increase for the Payment Protection Program. Combined with the \$349 billion from the first emergency relief bill, a total of \$659 billion has been authorized for the PPP.
  - \$75 billion will go to hospitals and health care providers to support coronavirus-related expenses and lost revenue.
  - \$25 billion for research to develop, validate, manufacture, purchase and administer Covid-19 tests.
  - \$60 billion of that will be set aside for smaller lending facilities, including minority depository institutions, certified development companies and credit unions.
  - \$50 billion will be allocated for disaster recovery loans.
  - \$10 billion will go towards grants under the Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.
  - \$2.1 billion for additional salaries and expenses for the Small Business Administration.
  - \$6 million to cover Health and Human Services Inspector General oversight.
- Earlier today, Trump tweeted that he supported the new funding and that "discussions on the next Legislative Initiative with [fiscal relief to State/Local Governments](#)" would be coming after this bill was passed. Several of the nation's governors have said their states have huge budget deficits and that they need federal financial support to pay for basic operations