

## NEBHE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: NEW ENGLAND'S PLANS FOR REOPENING

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

**Stay-at-Home Orders:** All six New England governors issued executive Stay-at-Home orders. The order was lifted in early May in Rhode Island, is slated to end mid-May in Massachusetts and Vermont, and is projected to end at the end of the month in Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire.

**Mandatory Mask Advisory:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island require most people to wear masks in public when social distancing is not possible. New Hampshire and Vermont recommend the use of masks in public but do not require it.

**Contact Tracing:** Maine is the only New England state that has not launched a contact tracing program. Maine officials cite a lack of funding as the reason.

**Reopening Advisory Groups:** Governors in five states—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont—have formed advisory groups to develop and implement economic reopening plans for their respective states. These groups are comprised of several leaders across a variety of sectors, including business, manufacturing, public health, and education.

**Reopening Plans:** Except for Massachusetts, every New England state has released phased plans to reopen their states' economies, in accordance with the White House Opening Up America Again guidelines. Gov. Baker's advisory board is working with him to release Massachusetts' plan by May 18.

**Multi-State Partnerships:** Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island are allied with Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in a multi-state effort to coordinate reopening efforts.

**Higher Education Reopening Guidance:** In New England, only Connecticut has issued guidance regarding the reopening of college campuses. On May 6, Gov. Lamont announced that he received a detailed report containing recommendations for a phased reopening of colleges and universities in Connecticut in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that Maine will announce its own plans for higher education soon. Gov. Mills' Economic Recovery Committee has three higher education leaders, each representing a different sector: private four-year institutions, public four-year institutions, and community colleges. Connecticut and Maine are the only states to have a community college representative on their advisory committees. Gov. Baker (Massachusetts) has a president of a private college on his reopening advisory board; this board lacks representation from the public sector. New Hampshire and Vermont lack higher education representation of any kind on their advisory councils.

**MAY 31**

is the anticipated date by which all New England states will have started the first phase of reopening.

**5**

states have released their phased reopening plans. Massachusetts, which has not yet released its plan, will do so by May 18.

**3**

states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island—are engaged in a multi-state partnership to coordinate efforts.

## GOV. LAMONT'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 23	May 20

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** All non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities are to prohibit all in-person functions, if possible. All gyms, fitness centers, and similar sports venues, theaters and cinemas, and hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, spas, and tattoo parlors are closed. Dine-in services at restaurants are prohibited. All in-person classes at K-12 public school facilities are canceled. People are encouraged to practice social distancing of six feet, and businesses are required to provide essential services to implement rules that help facilitate social distancing. Outdoor recreational activities and travel on public transportation are permitted but residents are encouraged to limit their time doing these activities.

### Mandatory Mask Order?

**YES**

Face coverings must be worn by anyone in public wherever a six-foot distance is unavoidable, including by employees while in the workplace. Exceptions include children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition.

### Contact Tracing Program?

**YES**

**ContaCT**, created in cooperation with Microsoft, is a computerized system for tracing the contacts of patients with the coronavirus, and as many as 800 people will be recruited to track down the various paths the infection takes in the state.

## GOV. LAMONT'S REOPEN CONNECTICUT

### Main Advisory Group

#### Co-Chairs

**Indra Nooyi** | Board co-chair, AdvanceCT; former CEO of PepsiCo

**Albert Ko, MD** | Professor of epidemiology and medicine and department chair, Yale School of Public Health

**Oni Chukwu** | Executive chairman, Aventri

**Alex Karnal** | Partner and managing director, Deerfield; co-founder, The Institute for Life Changing Medicines

**Mehmood Khan, PhD** | CEO & board member, Life Biosciences, Inc.

**Harlan Krumholz, MD, SM** | Cardiologist and health care researcher, Yale University and Yale New Haven Hospital

**Charles Lee, PhD, FACMG** | Scientific director and professor, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine

**David Scheer** | President, Scheer & Company; former chairman, Achillion Pharmaceuticals

### Education Sub-Committee

#### Co-Chairs

**Rick Levin, PhD** | Former President, Yale University

**Linda Lorimer** | Former Vice President for Global and Strategic Initiatives, Yale University

**Rick Branson, EdD** | Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Independent Schools

**Jan Hochadel** | President, AFT Connecticut

**Steve Kaplan, PhD** | President, University of New Haven

**Alice Pritchard, PhD** | Chief of Staff to the President of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

**Rachel Rubin** | Chief of Staff to the President of the University of Connecticut

**Jen Widnes** | President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

**Donald Williams, Jr.** | Executive Director, Connecticut Education Association

**Multi-State Collaboration:** Connecticut is allied with Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island in a multi-state effort to coordinate reopening efforts.

## REOPEN CONNECTICUT: GENERAL DETAILS

Gov. Lamont has issued a **four-stage plan** to reopen Connecticut. The plan relies on four levels: **red**, **orange**, **yellow** and **green**, where red is the most restrictive level and green is the least restrictive. The final level, green, may not be achieved for 10 months. Thus far, Gov. Lamont has released only the criteria for initial reopening. Connecticut must meet seven criteria established by the Reopening Advisory Board to advance to the first phase.

### PHASE 1: MAY 20

#### Criteria for Initial Reopening

- A 14-day decline of hospitalizations
- Increased testing available
- Sufficient contact tracing capacity
- Protect high-risk populations
- Adequate healthcare capacity
- Adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment
- Appropriate physical distancing regulations – the "new normal"

#### Businesses that qualify for Phase 1

- Restaurants (outdoor only, no bar areas)
- Remaining retail
- Offices (continue work from home where possible)
- Personal services (hair & nail only)
- Museums, Zoos (outdoor only)
- Additional outdoor recreation
- University research programs

### IMPORTANT LINKS

#### Connecticut's COVID-19 Portal:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

#### Stay-at-Home Order:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7H.pdf?la=en>

#### Mandatory Mask Advisory:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7BB.pdf?la=en>

#### Announcement of Reopening Plans:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/04-2020/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Members-of-the-Reopen-Connecticut-Advisory-Group>

## Recommendations for Higher Education

Connecticut is the only state New England state with a reopen advisory group dedicated to developing a plan for higher education. Independent four-year institutions, public four-year institutions, and community colleges are represented in the group.

On May 6, Gov. Lamont announced that he received a detailed [report containing recommendations for a phased reopening of colleges and universities](#) in Connecticut in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From Gov. Lamont's press release:

The recommendations include the gradual reopening of higher education campuses over the course of the summer—at the discretion of each institution—based on the type of educational programs offered and whether they provide residential services. [By the fall semester, if prevailing health conditions permit, all of the sector may reopen](#), although institutions will be free to decide whether they need more time for certain programs to restart.

The reopening of any higher education institution will need to be phased based on the varied nature of the activities on its campus. For example, research operations function similarly to the operations of a place of business and can be restarted relatively quickly. Likewise, community colleges are easier to open than fully residential colleges, where the challenges are much greater given that students live together in close quarters.

### RECOMMENDED SEQUENCING OF THE REOPENING OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

- **May 20:** [Research programs](#) and [administrative functions](#) will be able to open on the same timetable as the [first wave of general business operations](#) in the state.
- **Early summer:** [Workforce development programs](#) in institutions such as community colleges may reopen. As part of their reactivation, they will welcome back those students who were unable to complete courses with lab, studio, clinical, or shop requirements for their degrees this spring.
- **Mid-July:** Other [nonresidential educational programs](#) might be reopened if public health conditions continue to improve, and some institutions may want to resume [graduate programs](#). A few summer programs involving undergraduate students in residential settings might be piloted.
- **End of the summer:** In preparation for the fall semester, if prevailing health conditions make it possible, [undergraduate residential institutions](#) may reopen if they choose.

### PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET FOR SEQUENCING:

- The [prevalence of the disease must be low](#) enough to allow the safe resumption of campus operations;
- Institutions that will be housing students 24/7 must have [access to enough COVID-19 tests](#) so that entering students can be [tested upon arrival](#), and those students testing positive must be immediately isolated; and
- An adequate [capacity for contact tracing](#) must be provided to the institutions.

To reopen, each higher education institution would be required to file reopening plans with the Connecticut Department of Public health, detailing how they propose to:

- [Repopulate the campus](#), likely in a phased way;
- [Monitor health conditions](#) to detect infection;
- [Contain the spread of disease](#) when detected; and
- [Shut down the campus](#) in the event it becomes necessary.

## GOV. MILLS' STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 31	May 31

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** All non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities are to prohibit all in-person functions, if possible. People are encouraged to stay home and wear face masks. The use of public transportation is prohibited unless used to travel to an essential job. Dine-in services at restaurants are prohibited. Public schools buildings closed until May 31; classes take place remotely. Nonessential medical services, salons, drive-in churches, drive-in movie theaters, outdoor recreation including state parks and auto dealerships and car washes were allowed to reopen May 1.

### Mandatory Mask Order?

**YES**

As part of Maine's reopening plan, people must wear "cloth face coverings" in public where social distancing is hard to maintain. Exceptions include children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition.

### Contact Tracing Program?

**NO**

State lacks adequate staffing.

## GOV. MILLS' TOGETHER WE ARE MAINE: RESTARTING MAINE'S ECONOMY PLAN

Gov. Mills has issued a **four-stage plan** to reopen Maine. Under the plan, the stages are based on calendar months, to allow for time to assess the effectiveness of the health and safety precautions put into place and give businesses a predictable timeframe to plan for opening.

### Economic Recovery Committee

On May 6, Gov. Mills issued an executive order to create an Economic Recovery Committee. The group will develop recommendations to mitigate the damage to Maine's economy caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to jumpstart a long-term economic recovery for Maine people, businesses, and organizations.

#### Co-Chairs

**Josh Broder** | CEO of Tilson

**Laurie Lachance** | President of Thomas College

#### Education

**Jim Herbert** | President, University of New England

**Rebecca Wyke** | President, University of Maine at Augusta

**Joe Cassidy** | President, Southern Maine Community College

#### Legislators

Rep. **Joshua Morris**, Rep. **Brian Hubbell**, Sen. **Lisa Keim**, Sen. **Michael Carpenter**

The Committee will not address public health matters, including the reopening timeframe; however, it will provide guidance on the importance of good public health as a precondition for good economic growth. The Committee will convene its first meeting as soon as practicable and deliver a **preliminary report no later than July 15** and a **final report by December 1**.

## REOPENING PLANS DETAILS

### STAGE 1: May

- Prohibition on gatherings of **more than 10 people**
- **14-day quarantine** on people entering Maine
- All businesses that have been open may remain open.
- **At-risk people** should stay home when possible
- **Continued work from home**, if possible
- Professional services, such as legal services, should continue to be done remotely
- Construction firms should deploy additional **Personal Protective Equipment** and other safety measures on job sites

### STAGE 2: June

- Prohibition on gatherings of **more than 50 people**
- **14-day quarantine** on people entering Maine
- All businesses that have been open may remain open.
- **At-risk people** should stay home when possible
- Employees in legal and professional fields may **return to offices**, including State employees, as needed.

### STAGE 3: July/August

Published document restates Stage 2 criteria for Stage 3.

### STAGE 4: TBD

All **businesses are open** and operating with appropriate safety modifications.

**Businesses permitted to open during Stage 1:** **Health care** from Maine-licensed providers, with recommendations that they prioritize care for patients with time-sensitive conditions; assure the safety of patients, staff, and communities; manage the use of essential resources such as personal protective equipment and testing supplies; and pace re-opening services to the level of community COVID-19 activity, maintaining capacity in our hospitals for potential outbreaks. **Personal services:** Barber shops, hair salons, and pet grooming. Limited drive-in, stay-in-your-vehicle religious services. **Drive-in movie theaters.** **Outdoor recreation:** guided outdoor activities (hunting & fishing) and restricted use of golf and disc golf courses. **State parks,** state-owned public land trails, and historic sites; although certain coastal state parks will remain closed. **Auto dealerships** and **car washes.**

**Businesses in Stage 2:** **Restaurants.** **Fitness centers** and **nail technicians.** **Retail stores** for broader in-store shopping. **Lodging** and **campgrounds** for Maine residents and those who have met the 14 day quarantine requirement. **Day camps** for Maine children and those who have met the 14 day quarantine requirement. **Coastal State parks.**

**Businesses in Stage 3:** **Lodging,** such as hotels, campgrounds, summer camps, or RV parks for Maine residents and visitors. The Administration is developing guidelines to assist them in safely reopening, and reservations should not be taken until those guidelines are issued. **Outdoor recreation** such as charter boats and boat excursions. **Bars.** **Personal services** such as spas, tattoo and piercing parlors, and massage facilities, among others.

**Stage 4:** Resumption of **normal business operations.**

**PLANS/GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Guidance for the reopening of the state's college and university campuses remains to be determined.

**Gov. Mills has not yet announced state guidelines to assist in the safe reopening of the state's college campuses.** Her Economic Recovery Committee has three higher education leaders, each representing a different sector: private four-year institutions, public four-year institutions, and community colleges.

**IMPORTANT LINKS****Stay-at-Home Order:**

[https://www.mainepublic.org/sites/mpbn/files/202004/an\\_order\\_to\\_stay\\_safer\\_at\\_home.pdf](https://www.mainepublic.org/sites/mpbn/files/202004/an_order_to_stay_safer_at_home.pdf)

**Gov. Mills' Reopening Plans:**

[https://www.maine.gov/covid19/sites/maine.gov.covid19/files/inline-files/Restarting\\_Maines\\_Economy\\_Book.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/covid19/sites/maine.gov.covid19/files/inline-files/Restarting_Maines_Economy_Book.pdf)

**Gov. Mills Announcement Regarding the Economic Recovery Committee**

<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/sites/maine.gov.governor.mills/files/inline-files/EO51-An%20Order%20Establishing%20the%20Economic%20Recovery%20Committee.pdf>

## GOV. BAKER'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 24	May 18

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** All non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities are to prohibit all in-person functions, if possible. No gatherings of more than 10 people. Residents are strongly urged to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary person to person contact during this time period. All gyms, fitness centers, and similar sports venues; theaters and cinemas; and hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, spas, and tattoo parlors are closed. K-12 schools are closed through the rest of the school year, and day care centers are closed until the end of June. Dine-in services at restaurants are prohibited. People are encouraged to practice social distancing of six feet, and businesses are required to provide essential services to implement rules that help facilitate social distancing. Outdoor recreational activities and travel on public transportation are permitted but residents are encouraged to limit their time doing these activities.

### Mandatory Mask Order?

**YES**

Face coverings must be worn by anyone in public wherever a six-foot distance is unavoidable, both indoors and outdoors. Exceptions include children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition.

### Contact Tracing Program?

**YES**

The state is tracking down everyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, identifying their close contacts, and asking both groups of people to isolate until they are no longer contagious. People are being contacted by phone via a COVID-19 tracking hotline. However, unless the call recipient pays for caller ID, then calls appear as spam. Massachusetts is asking Sprint, Verizon and others to waive caller ID fees and hoping phone owners will activate that feature.

## GOV. BAKER'S REOPENING PLANS

### Governor's Advisory Board

- Aron Ain** | CEO, Kronos Inc & Ultimate Software
- Carlo Zaffanella** | Vice President & General Manager, Maritime & Strategic Systems, General Dynamics Mission Systems
- Corey Thomas** | CEO, Rapid 7
- Daniel Rivera** | Mayor, City of Lawrence
- Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH** | Massachusetts General Hospital
- Girish Navani** | CEO and Co-Founder, eClinicalWorks
- Joe Bahena** | Senior Vice President, Joseph Abboud Manufacturing
- Kathryn Burton** | Chief of Staff, City of Boston
- Laurie Leshin, PhD** | President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Linda Markham** | President, Cape Air
- Mark Keroack** | President & CEO, Baystate Health
- Monica Bharel, MD** | Commissioner, Department of Public Health
- Nicole LaChapelle** | Mayor, City of Easthampton
- Pamela Everhart** | Head of Regional Public Affairs & Community Relations, Fidelity Investments
- Stephanie Pollack** | Transportation Secretary & CEO, MassDOT
- Steve DiFillippo** | CEO, Davios Restaurants
- Wendy Hudson** | Owner, Nantucket Book Partners



**Multi-State Collaboration:** Connecticut is allied with Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island in a multi-state effort to coordinate reopening efforts.

### MASSACHUSETTS' REOPENING PLAN

Massachusetts' blueprint for reopening the state has not yet been released. Gov. Baker's advisory group will **release a report by May 18** that will include Department of Public Health approved workplace safety standards, industry frameworks, and customer protocols and guidelines, including enforcement mechanisms and coordination with municipal leaders.

### PLANS/GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Guidance for the reopening of the state's college and university campuses remains to be determined.

**Gov. Baker has not publicly announced whether his advisory board is developing guidelines to assist in the safe reopening of the state's college campuses.** Higher education has limited representation on the reopening advisory board.

The private postsecondary sector is represented on the advisory board by Dr. Laurie Leshin, president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Neither the public four-year institutions nor community colleges has representation on the governor's advisory board.

Board of Higher Education chair Chris Gabrieli said the board, the Department of Higher Education, and the 24 state universities and community colleges will work, with consultants at EY-Parthenon, over the next four to six weeks to develop a "system-wide view into the unique financial challenges posed by the current pandemic and all of its uncertainties."

### IMPORTANT LINKS

**Stay-at-Home Order:**

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-extends-non-essential-business-closures-to-may-18th-announces>

**Mandatory Mask Advisory:**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

**Contact Tracing in MA:**

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-contact-tracing-resources-and-information>

## GOV. SUNUNU'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 27	May 31

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** People are encouraged to stay at home, whenever possible. People can go outside for exercise, to go to work, and to buy essential supplies. When people must go out, they ought to maintain at least six feet of social distance and use proper hand hygiene. The order encourages but does not require use of masks. Schools are closed for the rest of the academic year. Gov. Chris Sununu allowed state parks to reopen on May 4. Starting May 4, hospitals can resume some of the elective procedures that were previously on hold. These include time sensitive MRIs and CT scans, knee and hip replacements, and biopsies and other invasive testing. State parks, campgrounds, and manufacturing facilities remain open. Campgrounds will be open only to New Hampshire residents and members of private campgrounds, with additional rules to enforce social distancing. Manufacturing facilities will follow new universal guidelines provided for all New Hampshire employers and employees. Beginning May 11, golf courses, barbers and hair salons, retail stores, and drive-in movie theaters will be permitted to re-open, with some restrictions. On May 18, restaurants can open to provide outdoor food services, in addition to providing take-out or delivery. Seacoast beaches remain closed. Public transportation services remain open.

### Mandatory Mask Order?

NO

### Contact Tracing Program?

YES

Every confirmed case in New Hampshire since the pandemic began has had a contact trace investigation, and health officials said that will continue. The investigations are done over the phone.

## GOV. SUNUNU'S STAY-AT HOME 2.0 REOPENING TASK FORCE

**Taylor Caswell** | Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs  
**DJ Bettencourt** | Policy Director, Governor's Office  
**Kevin Cavanaugh** | New Hampshire State Senator  
**Shannon Chandley** | New Hampshire State Senator  
**Sharon Carson** | New Hampshire State Senator  
**Bob Giuda** | New Hampshire State Senator  
**Ed Butler** | New Hampshire State Representative  
**Bill Marsh** | New Hampshire State Representative  
**Tim Lang** | New Hampshire State Representative  
**Jeffrey Salloway** | New Hampshire State Representative  
**John Nyhan** | President, Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce  
**Mike Somers** | CEO/President, New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurants  
**Steve Ahnen** | President, New Hampshire Hospital Association  
**Timothy Mone** | President, New Hampshire Liquor Enforcement  
**Nancy Kyle** | President/CEO, NH Retailers Association  
**Chris Emond** | CEO, Central New Hampshire Boys & Girls Club  
**Lori Harnois** | Director, State of New Hampshire Travel & Tourism  
**Phil Bryce** | Director, State of New Hampshire Parks & Recreation  
**Patricia Tilley** | Deputy Director, New Hampshire Division of Public Health, DHHS  
**Scott Naismith** | President, New Hampshire Police Chiefs Association  
**Bruce Berke** | New Hampshire Travel Council and New Hampshire Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business

## NEW HAMPSHIRE'S REOPENING PLAN

**Industries that could continue to operate with new, modified guidance before May 4:**

- Public and Private Campgrounds
- New Hampshire State Park
- Manufacturing

**Industries that were able to begin to phase-in services on May 4:**

- Certain Health Care Services

**Industries that can begin to phase-in, or expand services on May 11:**

- Retail Stores
- Drive-in Movie Theaters
- Public and Private Golf Courses
- Barbers and Hair Salons

**Industries that can begin to phase-in, or expand services on May 18:**

- Restaurants

The details of Gov. Sununu's reopening plans continue to unfold. **Members of the public are invited to listen to Task Force meetings via Zoom.** Meeting minutes are published online afterward. The meeting schedule is linked below.

## PLANS/GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Guidance for the reopening of the state's college and university campuses remains to be determined.

**Gov. Sununu has not publicly announced whether his task force is developing guidelines to assist in the safe reopening of the state's college campuses.**

Higher education is not represented on the governor's task force.

## IMPORTANT LINKS

**Stay-at-Home Order 2.0:**

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/stay-at-home/documents/20200501-universal.pdf>

**Governor's Re-Open Road Map:**

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/documents/20200421-economic-re-opening.pdf>

**Governor's Re-Open Task Force Meeting Schedule:**

<https://www.nheconomy.com/reopeningtaskforce>

**Guidance for Each Industry Allowed to Reopen Through May 18:**

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/20200501-stay-at-home.htm>

## GOV. RAIMONDO'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 28	May 8

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** The order encouraged people to stay home unless getting food, medicine, gas, or going to work. All gatherings of more than 5 people were banned. The order encouraged, but did not initially require, people to wear a cloth face covering in public. On May 5 Gov. Raimondo issued an executive order mandating the use of face coverings in public. Any person coming to Rhode Island by any mode of transportation after visiting another state for a non-work-related purpose must self-quarantine for 14 days. This restriction does not apply to public health, public safety or healthcare workers. The order encouraged those who are able to work from home to do so, and anyone commuting in and out of the state for work should remain in their home when not at work. Schools are closed for the rest of the school year. All non-critical retail businesses were closed until May 8. Rhode Island state parks and beaches temporarily closed. The entrances are blocked, there is no public parking, and these facilities are closed to vehicular traffic.

### Mandatory Mask Order?

**YES**

All individuals must wear a face covering while in public – both indoors and outdoors – when social distancing of at least six feet cannot easily be maintained. Exceptions include children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition.

### Contact Tracing Program?

**YES**

Rhode Island is conducting contact tracing by having members of the National Guard try to locate people with whom COVID-19 patients may have come into contact. The state has partnered with Salesforce to make the contact tracing process more efficient. The program uses data collected from the mobile phones of residents who've volunteered. Participants download a mobile app, which collects information that is turned over to the state Department of Health if they test positive for COVID-19.

## GOV. RAIMONDO'S REOPENING RI

Unlike the other New England states' reopen plans, **Rhode Island's does not offer a projected timeline** for when each phase will occur. Instead, certain criteria must be met before the governor will transition to the next phase, and the timeline is indeterminate.

Like the other New England states, Rhode Island has introduced a phased reopening plan. Rhode Island is following a **three-phased approach** that **began May 8**.

**Multi-State Collaboration:** Connecticut is allied with Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island in a multi-state effort to coordinate reopening efforts.

### PHASE 1: Testing the Water

- Business and social activity resume on a limited basis with some public health restrictions.
- Non-critical retail stores will be allowed to reopen in-person operations.
- Retailers are allowed to have one person browsing for every 300 square feet of space.
- Every staff member and customer will need to wear a mask at all times.
- Work from home strongly encouraged. In the meantime, employers should begin taking steps immediately to prepare for eventually bringing more employees back into the office.
- Limited outdoor in-person seating options at restaurants will be allowed. Deferred healthcare needs, including well-visits and specialty care are permitted.
- Visitation restrictions will continue for nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living centers.

### PHASE 2: Navigating Our Way

- Expanded childcare options available.
- More restaurants, retail and close-contact businesses may open.
- Additional recreational options will likely return, including more parks and beaches, but restrictions remain.
- Social gathering limits increase to 15 people.
- Older adults (65+) and those with underlying health conditions can go to work and go out for food or medicine. Vulnerable individuals are still strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Masks, vigilant hand-washing and increased cleaning must remain in place.
- Offices will ease capacity restrictions allowing more people to come in, but many people will still work from home.
- All activities must account for strong social distancing guidelines of remaining six feet apart.

### PHASE 3: Picking Up Speed

- Schools reopen.
- Offices, restaurants, retail and other businesses will lift some of the tightest restrictions to allow more people in at one time but will need to operate under long-term safety guidelines.
- Social gatherings are limited to 50 people.
- Older adults (65+) and those with underlying health conditions are no longer strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Masks, vigilant hand washing and increased cleaning must remain in place.
- Working from home is still encouraged where possible but more people will return to the workplace, all activities must account for strong social distancing guidelines of remaining six feet apart.

### PLANS/GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Guidance for the reopening of the state's college and university campuses remains to be determined. **Gov. Raimondo has not publicly announced whether she plans to develop guidelines to assist in the safe reopening of the state's college campuses.**

#### IMPORTANT LINKS

##### Department of Health Guidance on Gov. Raimondo's Stay-at Home Order:

<https://health.ri.gov/covid/>

##### Mandatory Mask Advisory:

<https://governor.ri.gov/documents/orders/Executive-Order-20-30.pdf>

##### Reopening RI Plan:

<https://www.reopeningri.com/>

## GOV. SCOTT'S STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Stay-at-Home Ordered	Stay-at-Home Ends
March 24	May 15

**Parameters of Stay-at-Home Order:** The order encourages Vermonters to restrict their normal activities outside their homes. In-house services at restaurants and bars are prohibited. Schools are closed through the rest of the academic year. Lodging operators cannot accept reservations for stays and events occurring before June 15. Elective medical procedures have been postponed. Gov. Scott has allowed some "low contact" businesses to reopen with a limited two-person staff beginning April 20. Effective May 4, manufacturing, construction, and distribution companies were able to re-open with a maximum of 10 employees. The following week, on May 11, those same sectors, were allowed re-open at full operations with as few employees as necessary.

**Mandatory Mask Order?**  
NO

**Contact Tracing Program?**  
YES

The governor has created a contact tracing task force to help Vermont reach its goal of performing 1,000 tests per day. Among the groups that would be tested are long-term care facility residents, nursing homes, and prisons. And those will have periodic testing to curb outbreaks before they happen. People in quarantine, health care workers and child care workers would also be tested.

## GOV. SCOTT'S RESTARTVT

### Economic Mitigation & Recovery Task Force

Gov. Scott's reopening plan, RestartVT, is a **three-phased plan**, the first phase of which **began April 27**.

The State of Vermont Economic Mitigation & Recovery Task Force, established by Gov. Scott, is charged with providing technical assistance and expertise to mitigate the devastating short-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with developing strategies designed to speed long-term business and community recovery. The task force is comprised of job creators, community leaders, and business representatives from across the state.

### RestartVT Team

*The RestartVT Team will help develop plans for the smooth, safe and orderly reopening of the economy in concert with the State Emergency Operations Center and the Department of Health.*

- Deborah Winters** | President Firetech Sprinkler
- Walter Frame** | Executive Vice President and Director, Trapp Lodge and Resort
- Bill Shouldice** | President, Vermont Teddy Bear Company
- Sascha Mayer** | Co-founder, Mamava
- John Connor** | Connor Contracting, Inc.
- John Lyon** | Manager, Wilkins Harley Davidson, Essex & Barre

**Executive Team****Lindsay Kurrle** | Secretary, Agency of Commerce & Community Development**Michael Pieciak** | Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation**Michael Harrington** | Interim Commissioner, Department of Labor**Anson Tebbetts** | Secretary, Agency of Agriculture Foods & Markets**June Tierney** | Commissioner, Department of Public Service**Dennise Casey** | President, Casey, Inc.**PHASE 1: April 27**

Manufacturing fulfillment and distribution companies were permitted to begin phased-in operations with a maximum of five employees in any location if they are low-density and ensure employees are at least six feet apart at all times. No person-to-person contact, physical distancing, face cloth mask, according to VDH, CDC, OSHA/VOSHA COVID-19 Guidance. Remote work is recommended, if possible.

**PHASE 2: May 11**

Moderate density to adhere to six feet of distancing without cap or maximum PPE per VDH, CDC, OSHA COVID-19 Guidance. Continue remote work, wherever possible. Continue Visitor Restrictions. "Curbside" retail, maintaining six feet of physical distance.

**PHASE 3: TBD**

"New normal" operations within COVID-19 guidelines. Return of support/office staff within COVID-19 guidelines. Tentative return of visitors with COVID-19 guidelines, including on-location factory store/retail. Continuation of monitoring including appropriate PPE.

**PLANS/GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Guidance for the reopening of the state's college and university campuses remains to be determined.

**Gov. Scott has not publicly announced whether his task force is developing guidelines to assist in the safe reopening of the state's college campuses.**

Higher education is not represented on the governor's task force.

**IMPORTANT LINKS****Stay-at-Home Order:**

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%209%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>

**Contact Tracing:**

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>

**Vermont's Guidance on Masks:**

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%209%20TO%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>

**RestartVT Work & Recovery Guide 2020:**

<https://files.constantcontact.com/027e070f7e/e5e6eb91-e23a-41e4-8b1c-5421e1a21045.pdf>