Business Status of U.S. States *(Updated: February 3, 2021)*

- Currently, regions of the country are mostly rolling back or pausing earlier openings as a result of rising virus cases. For the latest state specific information, click on the links below.
- The business status of states list will be updated weekly. Included are:
  - Summary of state’s overall status
  - Detailed overview of each state reopening, pause, or rollback
- Updates this week: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington State
- TVB has also assembled a comprehensive back to school table that features information about fall school reopenings by state.
  - TVB Back to School Summary Table by State

Here are some online resources reporting on openings by state:  Ballotpedia  |  NY Times

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### Summary of State’s Status: Reopening/Pause/Rollback

Click on the links below to navigate directly to a state

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Alabama

**Governor:** Kay Ivey (R)

As of May 11th, the state loosened restrictions on public gatherings and business activity. Physical distancing of people not living in the same household still needs to be maintained. Restaurants, bars, athletic facilities/gyms, and close contact personal care services are open and are subject to physical distancing and 50% capacity limits.

On May 22nd, entertainment venues reopened at 50% capacity for indoor venues. The state also permitted limited team athletic activities that involve conditioning, training and skill drills with social distancing guidelines and the use of facial covering. Effective 5/23, the state permitted the reopening of childcare facilities, and summer camps provided they meet social distancing and sanitation, and facial covering guidelines.

In late June, Alabama issued guidance on how it plans to reopen its schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. The goal is to reopen schools in September with educational staff and students following now-familiar policies and procedures centered around social/physical distancing, the wearing of face coverings, increased sanitization and personal hygiene. All schools will undergo enhanced cleaning/disinfection and will have designated quarantine areas for students who fall ill at school. Classrooms will be reconfigured, and desks will be spaced appropriately. The state also recommends that schools limit the number of entry and exits to the school to only one or two at most and discourage the sharing of classroom resources.

The current executive order from Governor Ivey took effect on May 22nd and was originally set to expire on Friday July 3rd but had been extended until July 31st with no changes to previous guidance in spite of a continued increase in COVID-19 cases. On July 15th, Governor Ivey announced a statewide order mandating the use of facial coverings. This order lasted through July 31st but was extended through August 31st. It requires all people to wear a face covering outdoors or inside public places if social distancing cannot be maintained.

On Friday August 7th, Governor Ivey took to the Alabama airwaves and to social media channels to implore Alabama citizens to wear face coverings to help against the ongoing battle against COVID-19. The governor mandated that people wear masks in public indoor & outdoor settings when social distancing couldn’t be achieved back on July 15th, but she publicly urged Alabamians to make the sacrifice in her recent video message as cases in the state continue rising.

With students having returned to the University of Alabama for the fall semester, its president issued a letter to all UA students and faculty members on August 23rd warning that the fall semester could be cut short due to a rise in cases. "Despite the robust testing, training, health and safety measures we carefully and clearly implemented, there is an unacceptable rise in positive COVID cases on our campus," wrote UA president, Stuart Bell. He also stated in his letter that violations of health & safety protocols on and off campus would result in suspension from the university. The fall semester began on Wednesday 8/19.

Governor Ivey extended Alabama’s “safer at home” order on Thursday 8/27, which includes a statewide mandatory mask requirement. This newest extension runs through October 2nd. In making her announcement, the governor acknowledged that the required wearing of masks is helping to mitigate the spread of the virus. However, on Sunday 8/30 it was reported that more than 1,000 students at the University of Alabama had tested positive for COVID-19 since classes resumed in mid-August. There are currently no plans to shut down the campus in light of the spread, but the city of Tuscaloosa did shut down bars and banned the serving of alcohol in restaurants as a result. Police are also monitoring off-campus residences to make sure residents are following safety guidelines.
The mayor of Tuscaloosa (home to the University of Alabama) has ordered the reopening of bars in the area on Tuesday, 9/8 after having shut them down for a period of two weeks when cases at the university skyrocketed. The mayor made the move in spite of 800 new cases having just been reported by the U of A.

With cases at the University of Alabama dipping considerably the week of September 4th, college administrators relaxed some of the campus restrictions put in place in mid-August effective September 14th. Dorm study areas reopened along with campus dining rooms as long as there is strict adherence to the university’s safety guidelines. Events with a maximum of 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors are now permitted. Students living within the same dormitory can visit each other’s rooms as long as they wear masks and social distancing is observed. Other student-related events however are still prohibited.

Effective Monday 9/7, the state revised its “Safer at home” guidelines and now permits the operation of all buffets, salad bars, and self-serve drink stations. However, there must be a restaurant employee present whose duties must include ensuring that 6 feet of separation is maintained between patrons and must provide hand sanitizer to those patrons serving themselves.

Governor Ivey officially extended the statewide mask mandate on Wednesday 9/30 through November 8th. The newest order and associated guidelines are aimed at protecting poll workers in November’s upcoming general election. The governor also cited the drop in Alabama’s case rates since the middle of the summer as another reason for extending the mask mandate.

On November 6th, Governor Ivey extended the statewide mask mandate in Alabama through December 11th, 2020. At the same time, the new executive order also included the easing of some previous restrictions on local businesses and how many people could safely gather within them. Effective 11/6, businesses are now allowed to resume normal occupancy levels, and this includes retailers, gyms, fitness centers and entertainment venues. Also, exceptions to social/physical distancing rules are allowed for a number of businesses if people are wearing masks and are separated by a barrier. This includes barber/beauty shops, gyms, and restaurants.

On December 9th, Governor Ivey announced an extension of existing restrictions through January 22, 2021. The restrictions include a statewide mask mandate that requires people from different households to wear masks in public when social distancing can’t be achieved. Also, non-work gatherings are prohibited if social distancing can’t be achieved; retail stores must maintain 6 feet of distance between customers; close contact personal care services can remain open if they adhere to the guidelines for social distancing and hygiene.

On January 21st, Governor Ivey and the Alabama Department of Health extended the current state of emergency for another six weeks until March 5th. The order remains unchanged from the previous set of restrictions which includes a statewide mask-wearing mandate. The mandate requires usage in public when interacting within six feet of people from another household. It also requires usage in all schools and colleges. All other businesses are subject to social distancing guidelines. Restaurants and bars remain open with limited seating and table capacity as well as social distancing restrictions.

**Alaska**

**Governor:** Mike Dunleavy (R)

On May 22nd, the state entered the 3rd phase of its reopening plan. Under the latest guidance, the state has further loosened restrictions on economic activity, allowing most sectors to reopen. The state will continue to monitor infection data and manage any social/economic activity to make sure trends are heading in the right direction. A 14-day quarantine for interstate and international travel to Alaska was discontinued on June 6th and replaced with new guidelines.

At the beginning of July, the Anchorage School District unveiled their plans for the 2020-21 school year. Significant changes included a delay in the start date from August 18th to August 20th and instituted a Phase risk spectrum that determines how heavily a school will rely on online learning. The phases vary from a full 5 day a week schedule to a heavily mixed schedule with in-person learning only 2 days a week.
The current phase 3 executive order and guidance from the state was issued on May 22nd with no specific expiration date and no new executive orders have been issued as of July 15th to replace phase 3. Phase 4 implementation is yet to be determined but will generally see the continued return of economic activity, building on the first 3 phases but with even fewer restrictions and the strong encouragement of personal protective measures with minimal community mitigation procedures.

The state has also developed a set of guidelines, support, and strategies for reopening Alaska’s schools called “Alaska Smart Start 2020.” It is a framework for k-12 schools that provides a tiered approach based on pandemic risk levels per community. According to the state’s education department, schools and communities will work together to develop clear and actionable steps necessary for teaching and learning to continue in the 2020-2021 school year. The framework includes both remote and in-person learning depending on the risk assessment (low, medium, high) of the virus in particular communities.

On July 13th, Governor Dunleavy promised that there would be no state mandates for Alaskans to follow in spite of a new state record hit Sunday 7/12 with more than 100 daily virus cases. As of July 20th, several localities in the state issued mandatory mask wearing orders in spite of the state’s stance. The cities of Anchorage, Cordova, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Seward, Unalaska, and Valdez have orders in place requiring the usage of facial coverings in all public indoor spaces where social distancing can’t be achieved.

With cases increasing particularly in a few state office buildings, the Governor announced on July 23rd a mandate for required face coverings for all people entering state facilities.

On Friday 8/7 Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services highlighted new details for its recently revised non-resident travel mandate. Beginning Tuesday 8/11 out of state travelers arriving in Alaska will have to provide proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of departure as stated earlier. However, if they are unable to produce the required test results, they will be charged $250 to obtain a test at the airport. Alaskan residents traveling within the state or returning to their home state will not be charged. The first vacation cruise out of Alaska attempts at returning to service were thwarted when the ship on two occasions had passengers testing positive for COVID. The line has now canceled its remaining Alaska cruises in 2020 and the passengers on the impacted ship are now quarantining.

On Friday, 9/11, the city of Anchorage permitted the reopening of movie theaters. The city’s guidelines require that employees of the theaters wear face masks and so must patrons if they are not eating or drinking. All theater employees must have their health screened/checked before each shift and auditoriums will be cleaned after every show using EPA-approved disinfectants and pressurized sprayers. Patrons must socially distance inside theaters and showtimes have been spaced appropriately to allow for disinfecting between showings. Theaters had been closed for months during the lockdown.

On October 16th, the state of Alaska updated its interstate and international travel guidance. Under the new rules, travelers must complete strict social distancing for five days after arrival to the state; a second virus test is recommended 5-14 days after arrival in Alaska; residents who travel outside Alaska for less than 72 hours do not need to quarantine or test but should monitor for symptoms; there are separate protocols for critical infrastructure workers who travel for any reason.

The city of Anchorage announced on 11/6 a citywide mask mandate with no exceptions, meaning that children over the age of 5 must now wear masks in public and people exercising indoors. It also put into place new limits on the size of gatherings. Indoor gatherings without food and drink are now limited to 15 people (down from 30) although there are exceptions for churches.

On November 12th, Governor Dunleavy issued a statewide emergency alert urging Alaskans to take every precaution to stop the spread of the virus as cases there continue to rise at faster rates. The alert directly asked all Alaskans to wear masks in every setting and to keep physical distance of at least 6 feet from non-
family members. Masks are mandatory at all state facilities. The governor also asked that business and municipalities have employees work remotely as much as possible at least through the end of November.

On January 1, 2021 the acting mayor of Anchorage, Austin Quinn-Davidson, announced the easing of some of the city’s COVID-19 restrictions. Under the updated rules, bars and restaurants can reopen for indoor service at 25% capacity and alcohol service at both types of establishments must end at 11PM. Gyms and personal care businesses can operate at 50% capacity (up from 25% during the month of December). Entertainment facilities such as movie theaters can reopen at 25% capacity. All other retail or public facing businesses can move to 50% capacity (up from 25% in December). Indoor sports are still banned in the city and there are still restrictions on public gatherings (6 people indoors and 10 people outdoors).

On February 1st, the city of Anchorage moved to further ease several COVID-19 restrictions on businesses and organized sports. As case counts continue to decline in both the city and the state as a whole, Anchorage now allows bars and restaurants to operate indoor and outdoor service at 50% capacity (up from 25%). Alcohol service in both bars & restaurants must stop as of 12AM (under the previous guidance, 11PM was the cut-off). Entertainment facilities within the city limits can operate at 50% capacity (up from 25%). Gathering limits have been raised to 10 people indoors and 30 people outdoors when food is present, or 15 people indoors and 50 people outdoors without food. Indoor sports events that were previously banned, are now allowed in the city. Gyms and retail establishments can operate at 50% capacity.

**Arizona**

**Governor:** Doug Ducey (R)

Golf courses and state parks reopened on May 4th. Also, on May 4th, some retail businesses could resume partial operations with curbside delivery. With strict physical distancing, Arizona allowed retail stores to do in-person business on May 8th. On May 13th, gyms and pools reopened under guidelines provided by state health officials. On May 15th, bars, restaurant dine-in service and malls reopened.

With the rise of cases in Arizona, on June 30th, the governor ordered bars, movie theaters, and water parks to close for at least one month. According to Yelp’s website, between March 1st and July 10th, 269 restaurants had permanently closed in Arizona. On July 11th at 10p, restaurants were limited to 50% capacity for indoor dining.

On June 1st, the Arizona Department of Education released guidance for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance includes screening students before entry, face covering requirements, smaller class sizes, and the elimination of communal dining halls. On June 29th, the governor ordered public schools to delay the start of the school year until at least August 17th. Arizona typically opens in late July through early August.

The governor ordered bars, gyms, and water parks to remain closed for two additional weeks. Ducey issued an executive order closing those businesses on June 29th that was set to expire July 27th. Ducey also ordered public schools to reopen for on-site learning on Aug. 17th for students who have nowhere else to go. Superintendent Kathy Hoffman clarified that the order meant each school district must open at least one site for students to go but did not have to open every school or require every teacher to work in-person.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman said she believed schools in Arizona should not reopen for in-person instruction yet. Hoffman wrote, “As school leaders, we should prepare our families and teachers for the reality that it is unlikely that any school community will be able to reopen safely for traditional in-person or hybrid instructions by August 17th.”

On August 7th, the state health and education departments released guidelines for public schools to use when determining whether it is safe to reopen for full, in-person learning. The county metrics that form the guidelines include the number of cases per 100,000 people, positivity rate, and rates of COVID-like illness.
On August 11th, the governor released guidelines from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for reopening businesses that are currently not allowed to reopen. The guidelines apply to gyms, theaters, water parks, tubing, bars, and nightclubs. The guidelines use a red, yellow, and green benchmark system based on county coronavirus figures. The ADHS recommended that current restrictions be kept in place for now but provided the guidelines to help businesses and industries decide when to reopen once the state rescinds its restrictions.

Arizona Department of Education Superintendent, Kathy Hoffman, on August 14th, criticized districts choosing to reopen fully in-person on Aug. 17 despite not meeting the state’s reopening metrics released last week. Gov. Doug Ducey (R) defended the districts, saying local leadership was responsible for making those decisions.

On August 20th, the Arizona Department of Health Services approved reopening plans for two movie theaters, 31 fitness centers, and five bars. Businesses in these industries are allowed to reopen in counties based on community spread metrics.

On Aug. 21st, Arizona Education Association President Joe Thomas sent a letter to Gov. Doug Ducey (R) requesting the governor issue a statewide mask mandate for students in schools and on buses.

On August 28th, bars, gyms, movie theaters, and water parks were allowed to begin reopening in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, La Paz, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, and Yavapai counties. Gyms were allowed to reopen at 25% capacity while the other businesses were allowed to reopen at 50% capacity.

On Sep. 2nd, the governor extended an executive order that adds 365 days to a driver’s license expiration date. The executive order now runs through March 2021. Ducey said that the reason for the initial order was to eliminate the need for residents to visit DMV offices for license renewals.

State health officials announced on Sep. 3rd that 10 of the state’s 15 counties met the requirements to move to a hybrid learning model. Two of those counties, Greenlee and La Paz, met the benchmarks to resume full-time in-person education.

On Oct. 1st, the Arizona Department of Health Services announced all 15 counties in the state met the requirements to allow businesses and activities like movie theaters, gyms, and food service at bars to reopen.

Gov. Doug Ducey (R) announced on Dec. 3rd an additional $60 million for increasing staffing at hospitals. Ducey also signed an order allowing restaurants to temporarily expand their outdoor dining premises with local approval.

**Arkansas**

**Governor:** Asa Hutchinson (R)

Phase 1 of the state’s reopening plan began on May 4th allowing for the staggered reopening of certain Arkansas businesses and places of worship. Although retail establishments were never closed, they are subject to social distancing, sanitation and capacity restriction guidelines. Gyms and fitness centers opened May 4th under established health guidelines that include facial coverings and physical distancing. Personal care/beauty establishments opened as of May 6th and are subject to physical distancing and sanitary guidelines established by the state.

Restaurants resumed dine-in service effective May 11th at 1/3rd capacity. State parks opened on May 15th with social distancing and capacity restrictions. Casinos opened on May 18th at 1/3rd capacity. Large indoor venues like theaters, arenas, and stadiums also opened on May 18th with 1/3rd capacity restrictions as well. Public pools were permitted to reopen on May 22nd at 50% capacity and with entrance/exit restrictions, maintenance of attendee logs, physical distancing, and adherence to sanitation guidelines. Freestanding bars reopened effective May 26th with the same mitigation measures that Arkansas restaurants are implementing with 1/3rd capacity restrictions and adequate physical spacing between tables and patrons.
On June 15th, the state moved to Phase 2 of its economic reopening allowing restaurants, retail, personal care, gyms, casinos, bars, and indoor/outdoor entertainment venues to operate at two-thirds capacity (up from 1/3rd in phase 1). Phase 2 also eases restrictions on the operation of dental offices. On Friday, June 26th, Governor Hutchinson said that he’s not ready to further ease restrictions on business in the state as the number of COVID-19 cases in Arkansas continues to surge. The state is remaining in Phase 2 of reopening.

Effective Monday, 7/20, the state of Arkansas is requiring people to wear masks in public both indoors as well as outdoors when physical distancing can’t be achieved. Violations are punishable by fine.

Schools in the state are set to open the week of 8/24 and no later than 8/26 so that school districts have some lead time to make adjustments to the learning environments as the pandemic continues. Schools were originally set to start their fall semesters on 8/13/20. The state has issued guidelines that allow Arkansas schools to implement blended learning systems that deliver curriculum, instructions, and assessment through multiple methods that included on-site teach interaction and off-site instructions, including content that is streamed or downloaded.

On Friday 7/31 Governor Hutchinson announced that he was giving the green light to resume high school football and other amateur contact sports in the state starting in the fall based on a plan and guidance provided by the AAA (Arkansas Athletic Association).

On Friday August 7th, Governor Hutchinson signed an executive order allowing anyone with concerns about voting during the COVID-19 pandemic to qualify for an absentee ballot. Previously, Arkansas law limited voting by mail to only those who are “unavoidably absent” or unavailable due to illness or disability. Also, on August 7th, the governor announced his support for COVID Emergency Leave for School Employees legislation. It proposes using $20 million in funds from the federal CARES Act for 2 weeks of paid leave for teachers and support staff such as bus drivers and cafeteria workers in Arkansas public schools. The leave can be used by school employees who must quarantine for COVID-related reasons.

On Thursday 8/27, the governor announced that 4 days into the state’s school year, Arkansas school districts are reporting 222 active cases of COVID-19. To better keep track of cases in the state’s schools, the governor also announced the creation of a web portal by the Arkansas Department of health that will keep track of cases among students as well as faculty & staff. The tracker will also record cases among public school districts, private schools, and colleges/universities.

On 9/5, the state reported a record number of new cases which is being driven by an outbreak on the campus of the University of Arkansas. As a result, the university has banned all gatherings on and off campus of 10 or more people. All students will be held accountable for compliance with the campus COVID regulations. The state, however, will not be taking any extreme measures to address the spike of cases on the University of Arkansas campus.

On 10/7, Governor Hutchinson relaxed restrictions on visitation to nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the state of Arkansas. Under the new criteria, visits can resume after a facility has gone 14 days without any new cases of COVID-19. Under the original restrictions a facility had to go 28 days without a new case. The other benchmarks these facilities must meet in order to accept family visitors are that the facility has adequate staff for direct patient care, housekeeping and dietary needs for all residents; facility must have adequate PPE to meet the needs of all residents and staff; facility must screen every visitor, and staff member prior to entry; any person not meeting screening benchmarks will not be permitted inside the facility.

The Arkansas State Fair kicked off on Friday 10/16 without crowds, rides and concerts due to COVID-19 concerns. Back in July, organizers of the fair announced that the typically big event would have to be dramatically scaled back to prevent the spread of the virus. The smaller event largely featured junior livestock competitions. A food-centric state fair event along with a pageant will be held separately on the weekend of 10/24.
Despite virus cases that continue to surge in Arkansas, Governor Hutchinson said during a press conference held October 13th that there was no option to roll back business reopenings in the state. Instead, he said the focus needs to be on following the state’s mask mandate and other safety guidelines. He also extended the state of emergency in Arkansas for another 60 days.

Effective 11/20, bars and other businesses that sell on-premise alcohol in the state of Arkansas must close at 11PM. This latest COVID emergency order from Governor Hutchinson will be in effect every day through January 3rd, 2021. The governor cited a renewed effort to reduce the spread as positive COVID cases continue to rise in the state.

On 12/23 Governor Hutchinson announced tighter restrictions for the state that took effect on January 2, 2021. Under the new restrictions, some indoor venues will need prior approval from the Arkansas State Health Department when holding events with 10 or more people. This new rule does not apply to sporting events retail stores, restaurants, bars, places of worship or private homes.

On 12/31/20, the Arkansas state health secretary Dr. Jose Romero extended the 11P closing time for bars, restaurants, and clubs serving alcohol for another 30 days in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Current restrictions remain in place which include a statewide mask usage mandate in all indoor and outdoor environments where social distancing can’t be achieved. Restaurants are limited to 66% of indoor/dine-in capacity with 6 feet of separation between tables. All other businesses must limit capacity so that patrons can remain 6 feet away from each other. Employees must be screened for sickness and must wear masks.

On January 8th, a group of Arkansas bar owners filed a lawsuit against the governor and the Department of Health director over the state’s current COVID restriction closing bars at 11PM. The restriction is in place at least until February 3rd and the group of bar owners filing the suit claim that their businesses will suffer irrepairable harm if the orders to close early are enforced. Before the restriction was in place, bars and restaurants serving alcohol could remain open until 2AM.

California

Governor: Gavin Newsom (D)

Stage 2 of the 4-stage reopening roadmap began May 8th. This phase allowed for curbside pickup/delivery for limited retailers and limited capacity for places of worship. California counties had been able to apply for a variance to accelerate their reopening and move through stage 2 faster if they met specific requirements. On June 12th, the counties that received approval could expand on the limited retail shopping and reopen barbershops/hair salons, movie theaters, dine-in restaurants, wineries, bars, zoos, museums, fitness facilities, hotels, cardrooms, racetracks and campgrounds. They could also open personal services on June 19th.

Due to the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases, on June 28th, the governor began closing bars in certain counties. Effective July 13th, all counties were to close all indoor operations of restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums and cardrooms. Additionally, all operations (indoor and outdoor) of bars must shut down unless they are offering sit-down, outdoor dine-in meals.

In addition to those statewide closures, counties that remain on the “County Monitoring List” for 3 consecutive days are also required to stop indoor operations of fitness centers, worship services, offices for non-essential sectors, personal care services, hair salons/barbershops, and malls.

On August 28th, Governor Newsom replaced the County Data Monitoring List for the new Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which is a statewide, slow plan for living long-term in a COVID-19 world. The plan imposes risk-based criteria on tightening and loosening restrictions. Counties will determine how their sectors can operate by being placed into one of four colored tiers – purple (widespread), red (substantial), orange (moderate) and yellow (minimal). To move into a less restrictive tier, a county must meet that tier’s criteria for 2 straight weeks. If they fail to meet their current tier’s metrics for 2 consecutive weeks, they will move back a tier.
On Nov. 17th, 28 counties moved back into the most restrictive tier (Purple/Tier 1) of the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy,” resulting in 94.1% of California’s population being under Tier 1 restrictions. 9 counties moved back to Tier 2 (Red), and 2 counties back to Tier 3 (Orange). The face covering guidance had also been strengthened with extra guidelines.

Dec. 5th was the start of a Regional Stay at Home Order, which would be triggered only in regions with less than 15% ICU availability. Once this happens, regions remained in the Stay-at-Home order for at least 3 weeks. The order allowed access to critical services, but required operations to close in other major sectors, including personal care services and bars. Multiple other sectors had additional modifications while remaining open, such as retail and restaurants.

A limited Stay at Home Order went into effect on Nov. 21st. It required non-essential work and gatherings to stop between 10pm and 5am. The order applied to all counties under the Regional Stay at Home Order and those in Tier One (Purple) of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The Limited Stay at Home Order would expire after the Regional Stay at Home Order had been terminated in all regions of the state.

As of the most recent update on Jan. 26th, 54 counties – 99.9% of the state’s population – were in the most restrictive Purple tier.

The regional stay-at-home orders were lifted across the state on Jan 25th. This returns the state to a system of county-by-county restrictions. This allows restaurants to serve outdoors (limited capacity) and places of worship to offer services outside. Hair and nail salons and other businesses may reopen, and retailers can increase their capacity. The state also lifted its 10 pm to 5 am curfew.

**Colorado**

**Governor:** Jared Polis (D)

The state moved to phase 2 of its opening plan on May 4th which reopened office-based businesses, retail, and personal care establishments at 50% capacity and social distancing guidelines. Restaurants could offer take-out and pick-up only. Restaurants reopened for dine-in business on May 27th as well as bars, breweries and distilleries. All were subject to 50% capacity limits and specific social distancing guidelines.

Effective June 1st, children’s summer camps/youth sports camps, public & private campgrounds, outdoor swimming pools opened at 50% capacity. Gyms also reopened with a 25% capacity limit. All establishments are required to follow the state’s specific guidelines for their business. Several casinos in a few regions in the state reopened June 17th with capacity restrictions. On June 19th, the state issued amended orders increasing capacity at restaurants bars.

On June 25th, the state announced that its public-school system will open for in-person classes in August. Day-to-day school activity will certainly be different moving forward. Students and teachers will receive regular health screenings and will have to wear face coverings. Class schedules will be adjusted to avoid large groups of students moving from one classroom to another. There will be no assemblies and students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms not in lunchrooms. No student supplies or learning resource materials will be shared among students. In addition, all school facilities will be disinfected regularly.

On June 30th, the state of Colorado took a step back in its reopening process by closing all bars and nightclubs effective within 48 hours of the order. This move comes not long after the state gave the greenlight to these establishments to start serving indoors again. The decision was made to shutter bars/nightclubs amid increases in COVID-19 cases during the month of July, particularly among young Coloradans.

Amid the sharp increase in cases, Governor Polis announced on July 16th that all people over the age of 10 are required to wear facial coverings indoors in public places and will be in effect for at least the next 30 days. He also suspended granting variances to counties that have exempted them from parts of statewide health orders. Counties that have experienced increases in cases must present a plan to mitigate spread to
the state in order to keep existing variances. The state says these efforts are meant to prevent the state of having to return to a quarantine/stay at home orders.

On Friday 8/14, Governor Polis extended the statewide mask-wearing mandate into mid-September. The order, requiring Coloradans 11+ years old to wear a mask when indoors, was set to expire on the weekend of 8/14 but will now be in full effect until September 13th.

On 8/21, Governor Polis announced he will allow bars and restaurants to serve alcohol until 11PM starting on Saturday 8/22. Under normal circumstances, Colorado bars are allowed to serve alcohol until 2AM. Last month, Polis required bars & restaurants to cut off alcohol service at 10PM in light of rising virus cases. The extension of the cut-off until 11PM lasts for 30 days.

Effective September 12th, Governor Jared Polis extended Colorado’s statewide mask mandate for another 30 days. This latest mandate extension has been adjusted to allow exceptions for certain events, including people officiating weddings, funerals, and other religious ceremonies. The order applies to people in indoor settings.

Governor Polis extended the statewide mask mandate for another 30 days effective 10/12. In extending the mandate until November 12th, the governor cited the wearing of masks as the most effective tool against the virus. The mandate requires all citizens to wear a facial covering while in public indoor spaces.

On October 20th, the city of Denver issued new COVID-19 restrictions as cases and hospitalizations continue to rise. Under the new Denver rules, masks are now required outdoors for anyone who is with someone not from their household and when social distancing is not possible. The restrictions also limit group gatherings to a maximum of 5 people instead of 10. These new limits do not apply to classroom settings.

On Sunday, 11/8, the city of Denver instituted a new public health order called, "Home By 10." This order places a restriction on the sale of alcohol by certain businesses to 10PM. This restriction on nighttime business hours is aimed at bars, clubs, and restaurants. It also highly recommends that residents be in their own homes by 10P and to avoid gathering or mixing with other households. These restrictions are in place for 30 days.

On November 13th, Governor Polis urged Coloradans to self-quarantine at home if they intend to visit people outside of their own household for Thanksgiving. Otherwise, he encouraged people to not congregate in large groups during the holiday. With cases on the rise in the state, he reminded residents to remain vigilant, to wear masks, and keep their distance from others. He also asked residents to work remotely from home if possible.

On 11/17, Governor Polis introduced new COVID restrictions on those Colorado counties that meet the state’s “red level” threshold of virus infections (or severe risk). Any county falling into this classification must now shutter indoor dining and personal gatherings of any size are banned. While retail businesses and offices can remain open in a red level county, sales of alcohol at bars and restaurants are banned after 8PM; capacity reductions are in effect at gyms from 25% down to 10%; indoor events are banned. “Orange level” is considered high risk: restaurants can be open for indoor dining at 25% capacity as can gyms and offices. Personal care businesses can be open at 50% capacity. Below “orange,” there are “yellow, blue, and green” levels which are less restrictive based on lesser rates of virus spread.

Colorado’s ski resorts are figuring out how to approach the pandemic with the onset of ski season. One of the biggest changes is that many resorts are requiring reservations to ski, even for those skiers who already passholders. As the ski season resumed and more skiers flocked to the slopes, it became apparent to many Colorado ski resorts that they had to do more to manage visitation through the season. Even with reservations, many resorts report that they are selling out most weekends and holidays through the season already. Resorts are also having to actively manage long lines for ski lifts and gondolas to assure there is adequate social distancing. Skiers are required to wear a mask at ski resorts at all times unless they are actually skiing.
On January 1, 2021 Governor Polis announced that all Colorado counties that were currently classified as “red level” would be stepped down to “orange level” effective January 11th. In doing so, the governor is allowing restaurants to resume indoor dining at 25% capacity. Polis cited improving statewide virus metrics in lifting these restrictions across 33 counties, which includes the city of Denver.

Colorado is preparing to further relax COVID-19 restrictions across the state. On January 30th, state officials held a conference call with city and county leaders during which they presented new guidelines for more lenient county-level COVID-19 rules. The plan, called “Dial 2.0,” will keep the state’s current color-coded dial in place but the restrictions associated with each color will be revised and relaxed.

**Connecticut**

**Governor:** Ned Lamont (D)

May 20th was the start of the Phase 1 reopening. A 50% capacity limit was set for all businesses, retail stores and restaurants that reopened (outdoor seating only). Offices reopened and social gatherings were restricted to 5 people. Religious gatherings were to have 50 people or less. Hair salons and barbershops reopened June 1st at 50% capacity by appointment only.

Phase 2 of Connecticut’s reopening began on June 17th. It included a limited capacity of 50% for all: indoor dining, personal services (ex. tattoo parlors, nail salons), gyms, indoor and outdoor museums/zoos/aquariums, indoor & outdoor recreation and libraries. Phase 2 also involves 100% capacity of outdoor dining, the reopening of hotels (but no bars), events up to 50 people, indoor gatherings of 25 people, outdoor gatherings of 100 people, and outdoor amusement parks and event venues at 25% capacity. On July 3rd, outdoor organized gathering sizes were increased to a maximum capacity of 500 people, and campgrounds opened on July 8th. Guidelines were updated on July 27th for a number of non-essential businesses stating that they may refuse service to anyone not wearing a mask.

Phase 3 of the reopening plan began October 8th. Indoor capacity increased to 75% for restaurants, personal services, hair salons, barber shops, and libraries. Outdoor event venues and indoor performing arts venues increased to 50% capacity. Size limits also increased for other indoor and outdoor gatherings. Bars and nightclubs remain closed.

On October 16th, a color-coded alert map was launched. It identifies average daily case rate for every city and town in the state and is accompanied by municipal-level guidance on recommended actions for individual residents, institutions, and local health directors.

On Nov. 6th, the state rolled back to Phase 2.1. Restaurants decreased to 50% capacity with a max. of 8 people per table. Restaurants and entertainment venues must close by 9:30 p.m., with the exception of food takeout and delivery. Personal services remain at 75% capacity. Event venues are limited to 25 people indoor and 50 people outdoor. Performing arts venues & movie theaters have a capacity limit of 100 people. Religious gatherings are limited to 50% capacity.

Effective Nov. 23rd, all team sporting activities, except collegiate and professional, are prohibited until Jan 19th. Additionally, masks became required in all gyms and fitness centers with no exceptions, and fitness classes became limited to 25% capacity. The suspension of interstate youth hockey competitions and youth hockey leagues has been extended through at least March 31, 2021. On Jan. 26, 2021, the governor extended the state of emergency through April 20th.

**Delaware**

**Governor:** John Carney (D)

On May 20th, all retail businesses were allowed to operate by appointment only. Places of worship could offer outdoor services with safety guidelines in place. Phase 1 of the reopening plan began June 1st. Restaurants for reservation-dining, retail, malls, exercise facilities, barbershops/hair salons, tanning salons and casinos opened at 30% capacity. June 8th began the reopening of 30% capacity at tattoo parlors, nail salons, message therapy and spas within commercial lodging.
Phase 2 began on June 15th. During this phase, retailers, restaurants and other businesses that were previously allowed to open at 30% capacity could expand to 60% capacity. Exercise facilities remained at 30% through phase 2. The limit on indoor gatherings increased to 250 people. Personal care services resumed on June 22nd at 60% capacity. Effective July 3rd, bars in Delaware’s beach towns were required to close indefinitely. Standing or sitting at a bar in a restaurant was also no longer allowed.

A Sept. 4th order required businesses to more strictly enforce face coverings among employees and customers. Bars in beach communities reopened on Sept. 4th for food service with significant safety precautions/rules. On Nov. 5th, the governor removed additional restrictions at bars in Delaware beach communities.

To slow the virus spread, more restrictions went into effect on Nov. 23rd. Indoor gatherings in homes became limited to 10 people. Indoor gatherings outside of homes were limited to 30% capacity with a max. of 50 people. Restaurants must not exceed 30% capacity, with allowances for additional outdoor seating. Religious services were limited to 30% capacity, up to 100 people. Outdoor public gatherings became limited to 50 people and some youth sports activities became prohibited. Masks became required in gyms.

On Dec. 14th, a Stay-at-Home advisory went into place until Jan. 11th. It strongly advised all residents to avoid indoor gatherings, along with other requirements in additional sectors. In addition to the current mask requirement in public settings, another statewide mask mandate will be required for Delawareans indoors with anyone outside their households.

Dec. 14th also started additional gathering restrictions and a 30% capacity limit for most businesses, including most retail stores and all restaurants. Businesses were limited to either a 20% or 30% capacity depending on size. Retail below 5,000 square feet, all Houses of Worship, and funeral services are limited to 40%. A 10 p.m. curfew was placed on dining at restaurants and bars. Exercise classes at gyms are limited to 10 people. Indoor gatherings at businesses or indoor spaces open to the public is limited to the lesser of 30% capacity, or 10 people.

On Jan 8th, Gov. Carney signed off on continuing the restrictions under the emergency order, including the Stay-at-Home advisory and the indoor mask mandate. He also lifted the 10 p.m. curfew at restaurants and bars, but establishments still must have signage about rules and safety guidance. All games, matches, and competitions could resume at 30%, which includes athletes, coaches, and other employees or staff. The state of emergency was extended another 30 days on Jan. 25th.

**Florida**

**Governor:** Ron DeSantis (R)

On May 4th, most of Florida (except for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties) began reopening the economy with phase 1. Phase 1 opened up restaurants for indoor (25% capacity) & outdoor dining. Retailers also opened at 25% capacity. Bars, gyms, and personal services were closed during phase 1. Miami-Dade & Broward Counties began phase 1 of their reopening plan on May 18 with restaurants open with 50% capacity restrictions for indoor dining. Palm Beach entered phase 1 on May 11th.

On June 5th, most of the state moved to phase 2 of the reopening process. Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach remained in phase 1. For the rest of the state, all businesses that were opened during phase 1 saw a loosening of restrictions. Social gathering limits have been lifted to a maximum of 50 persons (from a max of 10 in phase 1). Retail stores and gyms are now operating at full capacity as long as they adhere to sanitary and social distancing guidelines. Bars pubs and nightclubs are open in phase 2 at 50% of capacity. Restaurants and food establishments increased their max capacity to 75% (up from 50% in phase 1).

Although the state reopening is still in Phase 2, June 26th marked a rollback of Florida’s reopening plan. Due to surging COVID-19 cases, the state suspended the on-premise consumption of alcohol at bars statewide effective immediately.
Governor DeSantis announced that the state will require all school districts to provide a 5-day week option for all students in the fall in addition to online learning options. Late in July however, Florida’s largest teachers union sued the state over its push to fully reopen all public schools next month. The Florida Education Association accused the state of violating a state constitutional mandate to keep public schools safe & secure.

Walt Disney World’s Magic Kingdom reopened to the public on Saturday, July 11th with social distancing and other public health measures in place, including mandatory facial coverings, regular temperature checks, and capacity limitations on park attendance. Reservations for the month of July are reported to have sold out quickly. Disney World’s other Orlando parks Epcot & Hollywood Studios are open on Wednesday 7/15. The parks had been closed since mid-March.

Effective Saturday 8/8, the state of Florida relaxed requirements for restaurant employees returning to work after testing positive for COVID-19. The previous executive order required 2 negative tests for a worker to return to their job after testing positive. The new executive order modifies the original one by putting the responsibility on the restaurants to implement employee screening protocols derived from guidelines developed by the Federal CDC. Under these new guidelines, patients recovering from COVID-19 can stop self-isolating 10 days after the first appearance of symptoms instead of 14 days. A second test is no longer required.

The Palm Beach County mayor outlined a plan to reopen schools and certain businesses with the governor on Monday 8/17 amid a local decline in cases. New cases in PB County recently dropped to their lowest levels since early June, prompting Mayor Dave Kerner to formulate a phased reopening plan. Under the current Phase 1, county schools would open on 8/31 for remote learning. The timing of Phase 2 hasn’t yet been determined but it would allow schools to reopen for optional in-person learning and would also lift current restrictions on businesses in Palm Beach County. Retail & gyms would be able to increase capacity from 50% to 75% and restaurants would be allowed to reopen their bars. Movie theaters and bowling alleys (which are still closed) would also be allowed to partially open.

Most Florida schools have been open since August 10th and it has reported that 900+ students across the state have tested positive for COVID-19. With in-person learning happening in some parts of Florida, infections among children have jumped 23%, amounting to about 9,200 new infections. On Friday 8/28, Governor DeSantis publicly urged people to resume traveling to Florida, saying there was no evidence that COVID-19 spreads on airplanes. The governor cited 8.8 million people traveled from Florida from March to June of this year, down from 24 million during the same period a year ago.

On Friday 9/11, Governor DeSantis cleared the way for bars and restaurants to reopen statewide at 50% capacity on 9/14. In making the move, the state now feels that bars and breweries are committed to health and safety standards amid the presence of the virus. Bars & restaurants closed statewide on March 17th at the onset of the lockdowns. They reopened in April as new virus infections dropped but closed again in late June as the state saw a resurgence of cases.

On September 25th, Governor DeSantis lifted all statewide restrictions on restaurants and other businesses. The governor’s order also cancels all local fines against people who refuse to wear a mask. The announcement allows restaurants across the state of Florida to reopen indoors at full capacity and prevents local municipalities from ordering restaurants to close or operate at limited capacity unless the closure can be justified for health or economic reasons.

On Tuesday 10/27, Governor DeSantis held a press conference in which he pushed for international travel restrictions to be lifted and for cruises to resume in the United States. The governor said lifting the international travel ban “makes a lot of sense” considering the development of rapid COVID testing. He specifically mentioned the Brazil and the United Kingdom as these are among the countries that bolster Florida’s tourism the most. Because of the industry’s importance to the state, the governor also advocated
for the resumption of cruising in the U.S. Florida has two of the most active cruise ports in the country, Port Everglades and Port Miami.

On 11/27, Governor DeSantis extended an executive order that bans Florida localities from enforcing mask mandates through fines and other penalties. He also said that schools will be required to remain open despite the rise in COVID cases in the state and that there has been no consideration of any further restrictions on businesses.

Speaking publicly in Pensacola on January 7th, Governor DeSantis reiterated his position, opposing local government restrictions on businesses and people in response to COVID-19. He called such measures “ineffective” and said, “We will categorically not allow any local government to lock people down. We will not let any local government kick anybody out of their job. We will not let any local government fine individual Floridians. We will not let any local governments shut down schools. And we’re not going to let any local governments do those things.” The statement was largely in response to Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson’s request to give local Florida governments greater control over COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

**Georgia**

**Governor:** Brian Kemp (R)

Georgia was one of the earliest and most aggressive states to reopen its economy. All businesses are still open subject to capacity restrictions and physical distancing/sanitation guidelines. As of May 4th, some shopping malls in the state reopened.

As of May 15th, restaurant restrictions were further loosened and are now allowed to have up to 10 people per table (up from 6) and tables must be spaced 6 feet apart. All restaurant staff are required to wear face coverings. Salad bars and buffets are still prohibited. Personal care/beauty establishments can operate on an appointment only basis. Waiting areas/rooms prohibited. All personal care/beauty employees are required to wear PPE. Gyms are open and subject to capacity and physical distancing restrictions. Movie theaters must observe six feet of separation between party requirement and strict sanitation rules.

Effective June 1st, gatherings of more than 50 people in a single location are allowed with social distancing. Banquet, private event facilities and private reception venues are also opened June 1st with social distancing. Restaurants and dining rooms no longer have a party maximum at a table. Starting June 12th, the state will reopen amusement parks, water parks, and will allow the operation of traveling fairs and circuses with restrictions.

As of June 16th, indoor movie theaters no longer have a limit on the number of people who can sit together. Walk-ins are now permitted at close contact/personal care businesses.

In spite of growing cases of COVID-19, on June 26th, Governor Kemp told the Atlanta Journal Constitution he has no plan to impose new restrictions or to require the use of face coverings to mitigate the new spread, and he has made no concessions on that stance.

To combat the sharp rise in coronavirus cases, the Mayor of Atlanta announced a return to tougher measures, rolling the city back to Phase 1 of the reopening on Friday 7/10. Phase 1 requires all residents to stay at home except for essential trips. However, the governor called the order non-binding and legally unenforceable and on July 17th the state filed a lawsuit seeking to legally overturn Atlanta’s rule on masks. At the end of July however, the governor withdrew his request for an injunction against the Atlanta Mayor’s order citing progress in his negotiations with the Mayor.

Georgia’s “Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools” is the state’s package of guidelines and framework designed to help local districts prioritize health & safety of students and educators as they open school facilities and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan can be tailored for areas with substantial spread, minimal to moderate spread and low to no spread at all. Schools can adapt and change their plans depending on the level of spread within their community. Individual districts can decide what day they want start the new school year although there had been talk of delaying the school year statewide until
after Labor Day because of the current state of the virus. Individual districts are weighing the risks of in-person vs. online learning. The largest district in the state, Gwinnet County Schools in Atlanta decided that the school year will start with remote learning and conditions will be reevaluated after Labor Day.

On August 3rd, it was reported that about 260 employees of Georgia’s largest school district, Gwinnett County, tested positive for COVID-19 and have been “excluded from work.”

On September 16th, Governor Kemp signed an executive order allowing families to visit their relatives in nursing home and long-term care facilities. The ban on visitors to these facilities had been in place since April 8th. In counties where the case rate remains high, visitors will only be permitted under extremely limited circumstances.

On 11/30, Governor Kemp extended Georgia’s current COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions another two weeks through January 8th, 2021. Kemp continues to urge citizens to wear masks, practice social distancing, frequent handwashing, and he also urged Georgians to get a flu shot this year.

**Hawaii**

**Governor:** David Ige (D)

On May 7th, malls and retail & repair services could open, which are businesses such as apparel, florists and watch & surfboard repair. Agriculture operations (non-food) could resume. Auto dealers, car washes and pet grooming services also reopened. Starting May 15th, beaches opened for recreational activities.

June 1st marked the beginning of the state’s “Act with Care” phase, which allows the reopening of medium-risk activities/businesses. All businesses and operations under this phase can be given approval to reopen, including restaurants for dining in, limited retail, indoor gyms, theaters, offices and personal services. It is recommended that restaurants operate by appointment only at 50% capacity with tables 6 ft. apart. Interisland travel without quarantine restrictions resumed on June 16th. As of July 9th, any restaurants, bars or other food establishments that do not comply with safety rules will be temporarily suspended.

On Oct. 15th, the Safe Travels program launched. For domestic trans-pacific travel, passengers can opt-out of the 10-day quarantine if they can produce negative test results, taken within 72 hours from the final leg of departure. Travelers who do not get tested or do not the negative test results prior to departure will have to isolate for 10 days. Travelers from Japan can bypass quarantine under the same requirements as domestic trans-pacific travelers; however, all other international trans-pacific travelers will have NO test exemption and must go through a 10-day quarantine. The Safe Travels program also gives criteria for traveling between the state’s counties.

The city and county of Honolulu had returned to the “Act Now Honolulu-No Social Gatherings” phase in August; however, on October 22nd, it was approved to move into Tier 2, which eases restrictions for residents and visitors. Dine-in restrictions were slightly lifted, arcades reopened at 25% capacity, legal short-term rentals resumed, indoor personal care services reopened, gyms reopened at 25% capacity, and more.

Effective December 2, 2020, all transpacific and intercounty travelers arriving in Kauai are subject to the 10-day quarantine regardless of testing.

**Idaho**

**Governor:** Brad Little (R)

Stage 2 of Idaho’s reopening plan started on May 16th allowing dine-in services at restaurants at 50% capacity and with social distancing protocols. Stage 2 also allowed the reopening of close contact personal services as well as gyms and fitness centers.

The state moved to stage 3 on May 30th which increased the limit on public & private gatherings of up to 50 people with appropriate physical distancing. Bars are open with capacity restrictions, but nightclubs and other large venues will remain closed. Movie theaters are open with capacity and physical distancing
restrictions. Telework is still encouraged wherever possible but office employees can return to work in phases if physical distancing and personal protection/sanitation is observed.

Idaho moved to stage 4 of its reopening plan on June 13th. It allows for public and private gatherings of more than 50 people with appropriate physical distancing. In-office businesses will be allowed to staff worksites unrestricted as long as physical distancing and sanitation guidelines are followed. Bars, nightclubs, and large venues can operate with capacity restrictions and physical distancing protocols.

Since moving to Stage 4, the state has seen a sharp increase in the number of new virus infections. On June 25th, it was announced that Ada County will remain paused in stage 3 of the process meaning that all bars in Ada County must close and gatherings are limited to 50 people. The governor announced on June 25th that the state will remain in Stage 4 for at least two additional weeks because Idaho did not meet the criteria to move forward to Stage 5. On July 23rd, after a 14-day period, the state again failed to meet its case mitigation benchmarks to move to stage 5 of its reopening plan. As a result, it will again remain paused in stage 4 for another 14 days. The state will continue monitoring case metrics and will evaluate conditions at the end of this newest 14-day period.

The decision to reopen schools in the fall, which the governor has been supporting, will be handled locally rather than directed by the state. The Governor’s expectation was that school facilities would be open for in-person learning, but the state’s public guidelines leave that decision up to local school districts. Category 1 is no community transmission and recommended traditional in-person learning. Category 2 is minimal to moderate transmission and recommends a hybrid in-person/online model, with staggered use of school buildings and short-term closures. Category 3 is substantial community transmission, and the recommendation is for full distance/online learning with facilities closed for 6 week or longer.

On October 15th, Governor Little announced for the 9th consecutive time that the state would not advance in its reopening plan, remaining paused in stage 4. The announcement comes amid record high COVID-19 cases in Idaho. In addition to announcing the extended pause in the state’s reopening plan, the governor also encouraged Idahoans to wear masks and practice social distancing. To date, there has been no statewide mandate for mask-wearing.

On 10/26, Governor Little announced that Idaho will be moving back to Stage 3 of its reopening plan after being in Stage 4 since June. The move comes as Idaho is facing intense virus spreading and as hospitals approach capacity treating COVID patients. The governor used the word, “crisis” to describe the current conditions in Idaho as they relate to the pandemic. The rollback to Stage 3 limits indoor gatherings to 50 people or less, limits outdoor gatherings to 25% capacity, requires physical distancing at gatherings of all types, requires masks on the premises of long-term care facilities. Restaurants and bars can operate only for seated customers at distanced tables. Schools do not all have to move to remote learning and places of worship can still hold services. No statewide mask mandate was issued.

On 11/14, Governor Little moved Idaho back to Stage 2 of its reopening plan in response to the big spike in COVID cases in the state. Under the rollback to Stage 2, groups of 10 people will no longer be allowed in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. Religious and political expression are exempt under the new guidelines. Masks must be worn during any gathering indoors or outdoors. Bars and restaurants can remain open, but patrons must be seated when not entering or leaving the establishment and tables must be properly spaced to create social distancing. Close contact personal care businesses can remain open but must limit indoor capacity, must shift to appointment-only services, and workstations must be at least six feet apart. Gyms are also allowed to remain open provided they adhere to capacity, masking, and social distancing guidelines.

On December 10th, Governor Little announced that Idaho will remain in Stage 2 of its reopening plan although he resisted placing stricter measures on the state. As cases surge, Idaho will continue to place a limit of 10 people on public gatherings and asked Idahoans to choose to wear masks. There is no statewide mandate for mask wearing at this point. The gathering limits do not include religious and political events.
On January 7th, the Idaho Air National Guard announced the postponement of its Gowen Thunder Air Show, which had been scheduled for August 27-29, 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The last Gowen Thunder Air Show was held in 2017 and attracted more than 100,000 attendees.

**Illinois**

**Governor:** J. B. Pritzker (D)

The state’s stay-at-home order was originally through May 29th, but some retail businesses were allowed to open throughout May. This included curbside pick-up/delivery for non-essential retail businesses. State parks, outdoor recreational settings and drive-in theaters were to have social distancing/safety measures in place.

On May 29th, the state entered phase 3 of the 5 phase-plan. Chicago had to wait until June 3rd to partially reopen. Under this phase, gatherings of 10 people (with face coverings) could resume. Non-essential employees in non-customer-facing office spaces were allowed to return to work. Bars and restaurants opened outdoor dining and drinking with limited capacity. Retail stores opened at 50% capacity. Personal services (salons, barbershops, massages etc.) resumed services that can be performed with face masks. Health and fitness facilities began outdoor classes and one-on-one training. Service-counter facilities that provide services for dropped off goods (like dry cleaners, electronics repair shops & car washes) resumed. Non-essential manufacturing reopened with IDPH approved safety guidance.

Phase 4 began on June 26th for Illinois, including Chicago. This phase includes indoor dining with groups of no more than 10 and 25% capacity for standing areas. Gyms and day camps may open at 50%, while museums and zoos can allow 25% capacity. Meetings/events, indoor & outdoor recreation, and indoor theaters/cinemas have resumed with 50 people or 50% capacity. Outdoor theaters/cinemas and outdoor seated spectator events are limited to 20% capacity. Youth and recreational sports venues can open at 50% capacity with 20% seating capacity for spectators. July 1st was the opening of 10 casinos for in-person gambling. Guidelines include capacity limits of 50% and card tables being separated by Plexiglass.

On July 15th, the state put out a 3-tiered mitigation plan focused on combating a resurgence of cases. It provides new metrics that will determine when a region requires additional mitigations and outlines industry-specific restrictions.

New restrictions for recreational youth and adult sports began August 15th. As of August 26th, new mask and safety guidelines for restaurants, bars and other food service areas went into place.

Due to rising cases, regions had been going under mitigation measures through October and November, and indoor dining was once again prohibited statewide. On Nov. 20th, tier 3 mitigations were placed on every region in the state to combat the surge. These tier 3 measures include heightened guidance for the following sectors: retail, personal care services, health/fitness centers, hotels, manufacturing, bars/restaurants, meetings/social events, offices, recreational activities and theater.

The Governor announced on Jan 15th, 2021 that regions were eligible to move out of Tier 3 mitigations, which is the strictest tier. Once a region moves out of each tier, it can go back into Phase 4 of the reopening plan. Additionally, youth and recreational sports may also resume play with safety guidelines in all regions moving out of Tier 3.

As of Feb 1st, Region 4 is in Tier 2. Regions 8, 9, 10 and 11 are in Tier 1, which allows 25% capacity of indoor dining. Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 have met the metrics to return to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan. Phase 4 guidelines include: 25% capacity for indoor dining at restaurants/bars, museums, and social events; and 50% capacity for retail, personal care services, and indoor recreation.
Indiana

Governor: Eric Holcomb (R)

Indiana moved to phase 2 of its reopening plan starting May 8th, by allowing religious gatherings in the state with no restrictions on size or capacity restrictions. On May 11th, retail, in-restaurant dining, and close contact personal care establishments.

The state continued loosening business restrictions by moving to stage 3 of its reopening plan on May 22nd. Social gathering restrictions increased to max. 100 people; retail stores are open at 75% capacity. Mall common areas, such as food courts and seating areas are limited to 50% capacity. Gyms & fitness centers are open with capacity and social distancing restrictions. Fitness class sizes are limited, and gym equipment must be spaced to accommodate distancing. Movie theaters are open at 50% capacity with social distancing. Playgrounds, tennis & basketball courts and similar type facilities are open with social distancing guidelines. Campgrounds have reopened and are subject to adherence to social distancing and sanitation guidelines. Bars & nightclubs, cultural/entertainment venues and sports venues remain closed.

Indiana moved to stage 4 of its reopening plan on June 13th and the city of Indianapolis moved to stage 4 on June 19th. This newest executive order from the governor lasted through July 3rd. Public gatherings may have up to 250 people provided that the appropriate social distancing occurs. Retail can increase to full capacity and restaurants with dining rooms can have 75% occupation, but self-service is still prohibited. Bars & nightclubs can also increase capacity to 50%. Indoor movie theaters can operate at 50% capacity and with social distancing. Gyms & fitness centers are operating at 50% capacity and with adequate spacing between equipment pieces to achieve social distancing. Classes can be held but should be limited to 50% capacity as well. Amusement & water parks can open at 50% of capacity. During Stage 4, conventions, fairs, festivals, parades and similar events are still prohibited.

While the state moved to Phase 4 of its reopening plan ahead of schedule, Phase 5, which was supposed to begin July 4, had been delayed. Instead, the state entered what it calls "Phase 4.5" on July 4th essentially putting Indiana’s reopening plan on hold. Phase 4.5 is similar to Phase 4. This order was set to expire on July 18th but had been extended to July 31st. The state will also continue its current 250-person limit on social gatherings. Since June 12th, restaurants have been allowed 75% capacity in their dining rooms, while bars, nightclubs, bowling alleys, museums and amusement parks have been open at half capacity.

On July 27th, the governor issued an executive order mandating the statewide use of facial coverings as cases in Indiana continue to rise. The mandate covers people aged 8+ and requires the use of facial coverings in indoor public spaces, while using public transportation, and outdoor situations where social distancing can’t be achieved. This order was extended on August 27th for another 30 days.

On August 3rd, Governor Holcomb announced that Indiana would remain in stage 4.5 of its reopening plan through August 27th, amid continued growth in COVID-19 cases. Local governments are free to impose most restrictive guidelines. Also included in the governor’s executive order is a moratorium on evictions from rentals. The extension holds in place restrictions and limits on crowd sizes for restaurants, bars, and public events.

On September 23rd, Governor Holcomb announced that the state would move to stage 5, the final phase of its reopening plan. Stage 5 gives restaurants and bars the ability to operate at full capacity, but still requires social distancing. The state’s mask mandate remains in place.

On September 23rd, the governor dropped capacity limits on most businesses, restaurants, and bars as well as crowd limits for social events.

The statewide mask mandate goes through November 17th. However, there will be no additional restrictions on businesses and crowd sized despite the sharp increases in virus cases and hospitalizations in the state. As cases in the state continue to surge, the governor has resisted calls for reinstating business restrictions that were mostly lifted back in August/September.
On 11/13, Governor Holcomb signed a new executive order that will impose new restrictions on state residents as virus cases continue rising. The order took effect on 11/15 and runs through 12/12 dividing the state into three categories: Blue, Yellow, Orange, and Red. **BLUE:** Low community spread; social gatherings of any kind indoors and outdoors limited to 250 people; a special/seasonal/commercial event with more than 250 people must submit a plan to the local health department at least 7 days prior to the event. **Yellow:** Moderate community spread; social gatherings of any kind are limited to 100 people. A plan must be submitted to the local health department for any exceptions to this restriction. **Orange:** approaching high levels of community spread; social gatherings of any kind are limited to 50 people. Exceptions will be considered if plans are submitted to the local health department in advance. **Red:** high positivity rates and high community spread; social gatherings of any kind are limited to 25 people. Any exception must be submitted in advance to the local health department. All Indiana residents are required to wear masks. All customers in bars & restaurants must be seated while being served. All parties not within the same household must be spaced at least 6 feet apart.

On 12/14, Governor Holcomb announced that Indiana hospitals must postpone or reschedule non-emergency procedures for the next few weeks as hospital capacity continues to shrink due to increased COVID cases. The executive order cancels all elective and inpatient surgeries that would have been done in a hospital setting. This order was allowed to expire as of January 3, 2021.

On 12/30, the governor extended Indiana’s state of emergency and current COVID-19 restrictions until at least January 24, 2021. Under this extension, all current restrictions as well as the statewide mask mandate remain in effect.

On January 6th, Hamilton County changed its COVID classification to red and imposed new restrictions on residents. Social gatherings are limited to 25 people; attendance at recreational sporting events is limited; limited capacity indoor dining is permitted but curbside pick-up/take away is strongly encouraged; senior centers are suspending activities; hospitals and long-term care facilities have visitation limits in place; schools are encouraged to review and reevaluate their plans based on the recommendations of the Indiana Department of Education.

As of January 11th, most of Indiana had returned to the “red” classification, indicating widespread transmission of COVID-19. 77 of Indiana’s 92 counties moved to the “red” zone and as a result, are under the strictest restrictions to curb the spread of the virus. The restrictions these 77 counties face are the same ones detailed above for Hamilton County.

On January 21st, Governor Holcomb extended the state executive order imposing county-level restrictions based on the spread of COVID-19 in Indiana. The extension is only for a week, however. The governor intends to review the state’s COVID metrics in a week’s time and will evaluate next steps on managing the spread locally then. The governor could extend the current order after next week or could cancel the restrictions based on the direction of the virus metrics.

On February 1st, the state of Indiana revised its COVID-19 restriction guidelines. For counties classified as “RED” (highest positivity and highest community spread), the overall size of social gatherings/public events are limited to 25% of facility capacity. **Orange** (approaching high levels): social gatherings limited to 50 people. If the venue already had a submitted safety plan with the local health department, the social gathering/event can operate at 25% of capacity. **Yellow** (moderate community spread): social gatherings capped at 100 people. With submitted/approved safety plans, gatherings are approved at 50% capacity. **Blue** (low community spread): social gatherings capped at 250 people. Face coverings are mandatory in all public settings. All customers in restaurants and bars are required to be seated when receiving service. Individuals from non-household parties must be spaced six feet apart at tables, counters or other seating arrangements.
Iowa

Governor: Kim Reynolds (R)

Bars & other establishments that serve alcohol reopened on May 28th. While restaurants had been opened earlier in May, wedding reception venues, country clubs, and other private reception venues were also permitted to reopen as of May 28th at 50% capacity and with physical distancing restrictions. Indoor movie theaters, gyms, fitness centers, retail, personal care/beauty, and libraries are now open at 50% capacity and with physical distancing.

Effective June 1st, outdoor performance venues, casinos/gaming facilities, reopened at 50% capacity and with social distancing. Self-serve food services are currently prohibited at these facilities. Amusement parks, bowling alleys, casinos, gaming facilities, and skating rinks are also open as of June 1st and all must abide by 50% capacity restrictions and social distancing. Indoor theaters and playgrounds remain closed at least through June 17th.

On June 13th, the governor lifted the 50% capacity restrictions on state businesses provided that they maintain the 6 ft. of social distance requirement and implement reasonable measures to ensure social distancing and sanitation practices. This executive order includes restaurants and bars, gyms, and fitness centers, close contact personal care businesses, theaters and performance venues, retail and malls. Public swimming pools can also operate under the same guidelines.

On June 25th, Governor Reynolds issued a new executive order which extended the state of emergency in Iowa for another month and will expire on July 25th. The current order also extends the guidance detailed in the previous order on June 13th.

On July 17th, the governor said she would override local school districts and require students to spend at least half of their 2020-2021 schooling in an “in-person” setting. This comes amid surging cases in the state. The state issued reopening guidelines for schools that leave the decision-making to localities. With a focus on health and safety, the guidelines outline procedures for in-person learning, distance learning and a blended approach.

On July 24th, Governor Reynolds extended Iowa’s public health emergency declaration for another 30 days but did not add any new restrictions onto current ones even as cases in some parts of the state surge. This new extension will expire on August 23rd. Bars and restaurants remain open but are required to social distance.

On 8/20, Governor Reynolds again extended the public health emergency declaration another 30 days, expiring on September 20. No additional measures/restrictions are associated with this latest extension beyond the requirement to social distance.

On Friday 8/27, Governor Reynolds announced the closure of bars and clubs in six eastern Iowa Counties. These establishments in Black Hawk, Dallas, Johnson, Linn, Polk, and Story Counties were closed effective at 5PM on August 27th. Restaurants that serve alcohol can continue to do so, but only until 10PM. The governor called the action necessary and was based on guidance from the state health department. This order comes as Iowa recently set a new record for confirmed virus cases. Many of the newest cases were linked to bars and clubs in the six counties cited in the governor’s order.

On September 16th, Governor Reynolds announced that she will let bars, breweries and taverns in four Iowa counties reopen, less than three weeks after ordering them closed. Under terms of the order, bars reopened in Black Hawk, Dallas, Linn, and Polk Counties. Restaurants in these same counties resumed serving alcohol without restrictions as well.

On Friday 9/25, the governor issued an executive order that extends the closure of bars, taverns, wineries, breweries, and distilleries and Johnson and Story Counties. These counties are home to the state’s two
biggest universities, The University of Iowa, and Iowa State University. Restaurants in these counties can remain open but must stop selling and serving alcohol after 10PM.

On October 2nd, Governor Reynolds announced she would allow bars, taverns, wineries, breweries and distilleries to reopen immediately in Johnson and Story Counties. This announcement comes after a closure that lasted a few weeks and was put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The executive order requires all customers to consume their food and drinks will seated at a bar, booth, or table and groups must maintain 6 feet of distance. This order originally extended through October 18th, but on Thursday 10/15, the governor extended it through November 15th. Social distancing and hygiene protocols remain in place at gyms, casinos, and personal care salons.

Governor Reynolds announced a statewide mask order for all public gatherings in Iowa on 11/10. Pointing to the rising community spread of the virus, the governor stated the need for additional mitigation efforts after resisting a mask order for months. The state is not placing any additional restrictions on businesses but there are new restrictions on the size of public gatherings. Indoor social, community, recreational, leisure or sporting events of more than 25 people or outside events of 100 people are banned, unless all attendees over the age of 2 wear masks. Additionally, all events with more than 10 people must ensure 6 feet of social distancing between groups and take other precautions. And at any gathering, groups of people attending these events can be no larger than eight people, with an exception for members of the same household. For youth and high school sporting events, if more than 25 people are at an indoor event, all spectators over 2 must wear masks and keep 6 feet between other spectators. Athletes are not required to wear masks. The order also mandates masks in salons, barbershops, massage therapy establishments, tattoo establishments and tanning facilities, except when the masks need to be removed for facial services. Masks are not required at restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, arcades and indoor playgrounds, which may have more than 25 people inside at a time, but the governor's order requires 6 feet of distancing between groups, and a limit of eight people per group unless a larger group is from the same household. In restaurants and bars, people must remain seated when eating or drinking and limit congregating.

On 12/16, Governor Reynolds loosened some of the recent restrictions placed on Iowa’s bar and restaurant community. Bars & restaurants can resume normal operating hours and there will no longer be any capacity restrictions, however people must be adequately social distanced in these establishments. The governor also extended the statewide mask mandate until at least January 8, 2021.

On January 7th, Governor Reynolds signed a new Public Health Disaster proclamation that lifts restrictions on sports and other recreational gatherings. The proclamation also extends several other current restrictions into the month of February such as the continued use of masks at indoor public spaces when unable to social distance for 15 minutes or longer. Spectator limits for sporting and recreational activities (including high school sponsored events) were lifted as of Friday January 8th.

**Kansas**

**Governor:** Laura Kelly (D)

On May 22nd, the state moved to phase 2 of its reopening plan which allowed mass gatherings of more than 15 people are prohibited (up from 10). All businesses and economic activity can operate subject to social distancing/mass gathering and public health restrictions. Personal services can operate on a by-appointment basis only. Gyms & fitness centers are open, but fitness classes have capacity limitations and locker rooms are closed. Casinos and sports facilities are open with restrictions. Restaurants are also open for dine-in service with capacity restrictions. Bars, nightclubs, large entertainment venues/arenas, swimming pools and summer camps remain closed.

The governor announced on June 8th the state was moving to phase 3 of its reopening plan. Under phase 3, gatherings can max out at 45 people. Bars, nightclubs and public swimming pools will also reopen with capacity restrictions and social distancing. Non-essential offices can start reducing telework and can start bringing employees back to work in on-site office settings with physical distancing protocols.
On June 23rd, Governor Kelly along with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment recommended that the state remain in in Phase 3 of the reopening process which was originally scheduled to expire on June 22nd when a move to the next and final phase (Phase Out explained below) was projected to start. Instead, the state will now remain paused in Phase 3 for at least another 2 weeks as it monitors infection and hospitalization rates. This announcement comes amid a statewide increase in disease spread.

On June 29th amid rising cases in the state and across the country, the governor said she is ordering residents to wear masks in public to help mitigate the virus spread. The move does not reimpose restrictions on businesses that are open but requires citizens to wear masks in public both indoors and outdoors (including the workplace) and when physical distancing isn’t possible. This order went into effect on Friday July 3rd and will remain in place until it’s either rescinded or the current State of Disaster Emergency expires – whichever occurs sooner.

On July 13th, the Kansas State Fair Board voted to cancel the fair that was scheduled to be held September 11-20th. Only half the fair’s vendors were planning to return to the fair this year because of the pandemic. The state fair contributes $74 million to the Kansas economy annually according to the state department of agriculture.

On July 17th, Governor Kelly issued an executive order that delayed the start of the public-school academic year until after Labor Day. The hope was to give the state 3 more weeks to see a decrease in the spiking cases it has seen over the last month. The delay would also give local school districts extra time to purchase the necessary supplies to safely reopen schools. On July 22nd however, the state’s education board rejected the governor’s executive order. Local school districts can now decide when they want to start the school year.

On Monday 8/17, the governor announced a short-term reinstatement of limits and restrictions on evictions and foreclosures in the state. She signed an executive order prohibiting residents from being forced from their homes and apartments for 2 weeks in the hope that the U.S. Congress will enact similar federal legislation. The order will remain until September 15th or until it is rescinded.

On September 11, Governor Kelly formally requested an extension of the state’s emergency disaster declaration. The state finance council must approve the extension otherwise there will be a dramatic reduction in state COVID-related services. The current disaster declaration expired on Tuesday 9/15.

Kansas public health officials have been urging new limits/restrictions on restaurants and gatherings. However, Governor Kelly publicly promised that she has no plans to shut down businesses the way the state did earlier this spring. She did so during a press conference held on 11/15. The bishop of the Episcopal that covers parts of eastern Kansas said that effective 11/16 he directed the diocese to suspend indoor and in-person services through December 13th.

On November 18th, Governor Kelly issued a new statewide mask mandate in the hopes of lessening the spread of COVID-19. State law still allows individual state counties to opt out of the mandate, however. The order takes effect on 11/25 and the order requires people to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces as well as outdoor public spaces when social distancing is not possible.

**Kentucky**

**Governor:** Andy Beshear (D)

On May 6th, the following types of medical procedures could resume outpatient gastrointestinal, radiology, diagnostic non-urgent cardiac, outpatient orthopedic, outpatient ophthalmological, outpatient ENT, and outpatient dental procedures. On May 11th, the following businesses were allowed to reopen manufacturing; construction; vehicle or vessel dealerships; office-based businesses (at 50 percent capacity); horse racing (without spectators); and dog grooming and boarding services. On May 13th, non-urgent inpatient medical surgeries and procedures were permitted to resume at 50 percent of pre-COVID-19 shutdown volume. On May 18th, government offices were permitted to reopen. Occupational capacity of government buildings was
capped at 33 percent. No more than 50 percent of a building’s workforce could be in the building at one time. On May 20th, retail businesses and funeral and memorial services were permitted to resume operations, subject to 33 percent capacity limits. On May 22nd, restaurants were permitted to resume at 33 percent capacity, plus outdoor seating. Social gatherings of up to 10 people was also allowed. On May 25th, the following businesses could reopen cosmetology services; hair salons and barber shops; massage therapy; nail salons; tanning salons; and tattoo parlors.

The following businesses were allowed to reopen effective June 1st: auctions (33 percent capacity), auto/dirt track racing, aquatic centers, bowling alleys, fishing tournaments, fitness centers (33 percent capacity), state park lodges, movie theaters (33 percent capacity), and the Salato Wildlife Education Center. On June 8th, educational and cultural activities, horse shows, and in-home child-care programs resumed. On June 10th, places of worship were allowed to expand their operations to 50 percent capacity. On June 11th, The Kentucky Horse Park and Kentucky state park campgrounds were allowed to reopen, and vehicle dealerships were allowed to expand their operations to 50 percent capacity. On June 15th, center-based child-care programs and day camps, subject to capacity restrictions, were allowed to reopen. On June 29th, the following businesses were allowed to reopen or expand operations: restaurants and bars (50 percent capacity); venues and event spaces (50 percent capacity); and public swimming and bathing facilities (subject to a capacity formula). Social gatherings of up to 50 people was also permitted.

With COVID-19 cases rising, effective July 10th, individuals were required to wear face coverings while inside, or waiting in line to enter, any of the following: retail establishments; grocery stores; pharmacies; hair salons/barber shops; nail salons; tattoo parlors; childcare facilities; restaurants and bars; health care settings; and any other indoor public spaces. Individuals were also required to wear face coverings while riding in public transit vehicles or other transportation service vehicles (e.g. taxis, ride-sharing vehicles, etc.). The order exempted children under the age of five and individuals with disabilities.

On Jul. 6th, the Kentucky Department of Education released guidelines on reopening schools in the fall. The document, a complement to interim guidance the Kentucky Department of Public Health issued in June, did not mandate a uniform course of action for reopening schools. Instead, "it is intended to be a guide for local school districts when developing and adapting their return-to-school plans."

On Jul. 27th, Gov. Andy Beshear asked schools to avoid reopening for in-person instruction until the third week of August. On August 11th, the governor requested that school districts not offer in-person instruction until at least Sept. 28th, and instead begin the school year with virtual learning.

Beginning in September, the governor announced childcare centers can raise class sizes from 10 to 15 children, effective immediately.

The governor announced bars and restaurants can move their last call from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. and remain open until midnight starting on Sep. 15th.

On Nov. 5th, Governor Beshear extended Kentucky’s statewide mask order for an additional 30 days. The order also extends previous orders allowing pharmacists to dispense emergency 30-day refills on prescriptions.

New coronavirus restrictions took effect on Nov. 20th. Restaurants and bars have to close indoor dining, and social gatherings are limited to eight people from two households at a time. Gyms, indoor recreation facilities, and offices are limited to 33% capacity. Event spaces and theaters are limited to 25% capacity. All K-12 public and private schools statewide have to stop in-person classes. Middle and high school instruction will be fully remote through at least Jan. 4th. Elementary schools will be able to reopen starting Dec. 7th if their county is not in the red zone.

Public and private elementary schools are scheduled to reopen starting Dec. 7th if their county is not in the red zone. Middle and high school instruction will be fully remote through at least Jan. 4th.
Gov. Andy Beshear (D) announced on Dec. 15th the state’s Healthy at School guidelines will be mandatory starting Jan. 4th, 2020. The guidelines include rules for social distancing, mask-wearing, sanitization, and other in-person activities (like food service in lunchrooms).

**Louisiana**

**Governor:** John Bel Edwards (D)

Phase 1 of the reopening plan began on May 15, which lifted the stay-at-home order to allow the list of Phase One businesses to open at 25% occupancy. Retail stores could offer curbside pick-up and delivery. As of May 18th, casinos and video poker establishments (excluding those in Orleans Parish) opened at 25% occupancy and 50% of gaming position. Restaurants, cafes and coffee shops could provide takeout, delivery orders and outdoor seating without any wait staff. Bars/breweries only with LDH food permits can offer takeout, delivery and dine-in seating at 25% occupancy. Churches can have gatherings of 25% capacity, as well as operating in outdoor tents without flaps on the side.

Phase 2 began on June 5th for the state. This allowed the following to operate at 50% capacity: outdoor dining of restaurants, bars and breweries (with LDH permits), churches, shopping malls (including food courts), gyms/fitness centers, barbershops, hair and nail salons, movie theaters, racetracks, museums, spas, tattoo parlors, pool halls, event centers, non-contact sports. Casinos and video poker establishments expanded capacity to 50% but are limited to 75% of their gaming positions. Bars and breweries that do not have LDH food permits opened at 25% occupancy. Arcades and trampoline parks can open under approved plans. Masks became mandatory in the state, and bars were ordered to close on-premise consumption on July 13th.

Louisiana moved into Phase 3 on Sept. 11th. Restaurants, churches, salons, spas, gyms and other businesses are open at 75% capacity. On-premise consumption at bars is still prohibited in parishes with high COVID-19 cases. When able to reopen, bars can allow 50% capacity for indoor services. After 10pm though, the sale of alcohol at any establishment, including restaurants, is prohibited. The mask mandate is still in place. Additionally, indoor social gatherings and outdoor crowds are limited to 50% capacity, up to 250 people. Casinos remain at 50% capacity and 75% of their gaming positions. Outdoor stadiums for high school sports in parishes with lower rates COVID moved to 50% capacity, up from 25%.

The state moved back into a modified Phase 2 on Nov. 25th, resulting in the following major changes. Restaurants are limited to 50% indoor capacity. In parishes above 5% positivity, bars are closed to indoor sales and consumption but can have outdoor table consumption at 25% capacity, with a max. of 50 people. Retail businesses are limited to 50% capacity. Gyms are limited to 50% capacity, while places of worship will remain at 75% capacity. Barber/beauty shops/nail salons and movie theaters are under a limit of 50% capacity. Indoor gatherings at event/receptions centers are limited to 25% capacity or 75 individuals. Outdoor gatherings at event/reception centers are limited to 25% capacity or 150 individuals. Sporting events will be capped at 25% capacity.

The modified Phase Two order and mask mandate were extended again on Jan 12th, 2021 through Feb 10th due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. All Louisianans are encouraged to avoid gatherings of individuals not part of their households and work from home when possible.

**Maine**

**Governor:** Janet Mills (D)

Phase 1 of a multi-phase plan began on May 1st with the above reopening with a ban on gatherings of more than 10 people and the use of face coverings in public. On May 11, gyms were permitted to reopen, but for only outdoor classes of fewer than 10 people. On May 18th, remote campsites as well as sporting camps reopened. On May 22nd, private campgrounds reopened to Maine residents only and for gatherings of under 10 people. On May 29th, churches and other places of worship reopened for services of up to 50 people. Additionally, Aroostook, Piscataquis, Washington, Hancock, Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, Kennebec, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc counties reopened retail on May 11th and restaurants on May 18th.
Phase 2 began on June 1st with the reopening of lodging, retail, restaurants, construction, day camps and overnight summer camps, community sports, golf courses, hunting, fishing and boating activities, public and community buildings, as well as social gatherings of up to 50 people. On June 12th, gyms and fitness centers, nail salons, tattoo and piercing parlors reopened.

Phase 3 of Maine’s reopening guidelines began on July 1st, enabling the following to reopen with 50-person limitations: Hotels, campgrounds, summer camps and RV parks, charter boats and excursions, spas, and massage parlor and facilities. Indoor service in bars, tasting rooms, breweries and distilleries were not allowed to resume on July 1st, as previously scheduled, citing clusters of coronavirus cases in other states that were linked to indoor bars and breweries.

The 14-day quarantine of people entering or returning to Maine will remains in effect, however, an alternative to the 14-day quarantine called Keep Maine Healthy was announced and has three parts. First, having visitors certify that they have received a recent negative COVID-19 test to stay in lodging establishments, such as hotels, as an alternative to quarantine. Second, increasing symptom checks at places where visitors tend to go, and third, supporting community promotion of COVID-19 prevention best practices and public health education. Effective July 3rd, Maine exempted visitors from Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York from its 14-day quarantine requirement or negative COVID-19 testing alternative.

On July 8th, Mills issued an executive order establishing expanded enforcement provisions for the state's existing face covering requirement. The order mandated that businesses require face coverings in retail stores with more than 50,000 square feet of shopping space, restaurants, outdoor bars and tasting rooms, and lodging establishments. On July 10th, one of Maine's two casinos, Bangor's Hollywood Casino, reopened. The overall capacity limit for casinos in Maine is 200 people, with no more than 50 people allowed in each of four zones into which the casinos will be divided.

On Friday, July 17, the Maine Department of Education announced it would be classifying counties as different COVID-19 risk zones. Green indicates a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread, meaning schools can return to in-person instruction models; yellow indicates an elevated risk, meaning schools should adopt hybrid instruction models; and red indicates a high risk, meaning schools should not return to in-person instruction models. These determinations will be based on recent data regarding case rates, positivity rates, and syndromic data. On July 31st, the Maine Department of Education said school districts in all of Maine’s 16 counties have been classified in the green risk zone, allowing them to reopen full time for all students, based on new information from the state. Despite being given the green light to reopen to in-person instruction, as of August 31st, nearly all of Maine’s more than 150 school districts have opted for a hybrid model, which is designated as “yellow” in the State’s definition and many public schools in Maine have postponed the start of classes until either September 8th or 14th while they continue to work on reopening plans. As of November 13th, Androscoggin, Knox, Franklin, Somerset, and Washington counties are classified as “yellow”.

On October 13th, Maine moved into Stage 4 of its reopening plan. Phase 4 increased capacity for indoor seating in restaurants, churches and movie theaters to 50% with a maximum of 100 people, as long as coronavirus protocols are in place, like face coverings, enhanced cleaning practices and physical distancing measures. Additionally, bars and tasting rooms will be able to reopen for indoor service on November 2nd, provided they abide by Maine’s newly posted COVID-19 Prevention Checklist. Gyms are still limited to 50 people and retailers have an occupancy limit of 5 people per 1,000 square feet of shopping space, according to Maine guidance. When the state moved to Stage 4, masks became required in restaurants, hotels and retail businesses beyond coastal areas and big cities. Face-covering requirements also apply at private schools and in local government buildings.

On November 1st, Governor Mills announced a significant rollback of Maine’s reopening plans in response to a recent COVID-19 surge that saw the largest-ever number of new cases in the state in the week ending on October 31st. Effective Wednesday, November 4th, indoor gatherings returned to a maximum of 50 people, regardless of capacity. The gathering limit on outdoor activities remained at 100 people under existing guidelines, with physical distancing and the use of face coverings. Occupancy limits for retail establishments
remained at 5 people per 1,000 square feet of shopping space. Mills' administration had previously increased indoor seating limits to 50 percent of permitted capacity or 100 people, whichever was less. Mills' administration had anticipated reopening bars and tasting rooms to indoor seated service on Monday, November 2nd. However, the reopening of bars and tasting rooms for indoor seated service has been postponed until further notice. Mills' administration will continue to evaluate public health metrics to determine when it is safe to reopen bars and tasting rooms for indoor seated service.

Additionally, effective Wednesday, November 4th, people traveling from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are no longer exempt from Maine's quarantine or negative test requirement. People coming to Maine from these states must either quarantine for 14 days or receive a negative COVID-19 test with a sample taken less than 72 hours from arrival in Maine, quarantining while awaiting test results. This protocol includes Maine residents returning from one of the non-exempt states. On November 16th, Massachusetts was also added to the list of states that are no longer exempt from Maine's quarantine or negative test requirement.

On November 5th, Governor Mills issued an Executive Order requiring people in the state of Maine to wear face coverings in public settings, regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance. The new order strengthens an earlier one stating that face coverings must be worn only when physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

On November 20th, Governor Mills issued a 9pm curfew mandate for movie theaters, restaurants, bars, and indoor amusement venues like bowling alleys. The mandate originally went through December 6th, but on December 4th, the curfew was extended until January 3rd, 2021. On January 4th, Governor Mills extended the curfew on Maine businesses as the state continues to battle rising COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. The executive order will now continue indefinitely.

On December 11th, Governor Mills signed an executive order that simplifies and strengthens the enforcement of the State's face covering requirement. Moving forward, owners and operators of all indoor public spaces – regardless of the type of entity or size – must not allow those who refuse to wear a face covering to enter or remain in their venue. Previous executive orders had required enforcement in some but not all public settings. Additionally, municipalities, which are authorized to enforce the use of face coverings on streets and sidewalks, in parks and in other public spaces like town halls where individuals gather, are also required to deny entry to indoor public spaces to those who will not wear face coverings. The executive order also clarifies that claiming a medical exemption is not an excuse to enter or remain in an establishment without a face covering. This comes in light of reports from retailers of individuals abusing the exemption. Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities exist to protect such individuals as well as others from COVID-19 in public settings.

The governor also warned that more severe restrictions, including reduced gathering limits or business closures, might be necessary to gain better control of the spread of COVID-19, although these are options of last resort especially given the lack of federal support for workers and businesses.

On January 19th, the state of emergency declaration in Maine was extended another 30 days through February 17th, 2021. This is Governor Mills' eleventh extension of the emergency declaration as the state continues its fight against COVID-19. The Governor's Office explained Mills' decision to extend the emergency as it is "in line with nearly every other state in the nation which have ongoing emergency declarations," citing the National Governors Association. New Hampshire and Vermont also recently extended their states of emergency.

**Maryland**

**Governor:** Larry Hogan (R)

Maryland started stage 1 of its Roadmap to Recovery plan on May 15th. Limited retail stores, including those in shopping malls that can be accessed from the outside, could open at 50% capacity. Churches and religious facilities could hold indoor or outdoor events at 50% capacity. Hair salons and barbershops
opened at 50% capacity by appointment only. All parents returning to work in stage 1 are able to get childcare. Outdoor dining for restaurants, bars and social clubs began on May 29th. With limited capacity and guidelines, outdoor youth sports, youth day camp activities and outdoor pools resumed.

June 5th was the start of phase 2. All non-essential retail businesses, religious facilities and barbershops/personal-service establishments opened at 50% capacity with guidelines. Other businesses to reopen were manufacturing, construction, wholesalers, warehouses, and offices.

Indoor dining at restaurants reopened at 50% capacity on June 12th. Outdoor amusements/rides and outdoor pools (50% capacity) reopened. Starting June 19th, indoor fitness facilities started to reopen at 50% capacity. Casinos, arcades and malls also began to resume operations. Bars still didn't allow people standing or congregating but allowed booth service and tables.

Effective July 31st, face coverings became required in public spaces of all businesses for all Marylanders over the age of five. They are also required in outdoor public areas, whenever it is not possible to maintain physical distancing.

Stage 3 of Maryland's recovery plan began Sept. 4th. Indoor theaters/performance venues opened at 50% capacity or 100 people, whichever is less. Outdoor venues opened at 50% capacity or 250 people. Retail and religious facilities increased to 75% capacity. On Oct. 16th, occupancy guidelines for outdoor sporting and entertainment venues were updated to allow 10% capacity, with face masks being required.

Due to rising cases, Nov. 11th was the beginning of a series of actions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Indoor dining decreased from 75% to 50% capacity. Indoor gatherings are now limited to 25 people or less. Nov. 20th began the requirement that bars and restaurants close between 10pm and 6am, except for takeout and delivery. Retail and religious facilities had their capacity limit reduced to 50% to match the limit on indoor dining, personal services, fitness centers and other entertainment facilities. Additionally, hospital visitation is prohibited with some exceptions until further notice.

Bar and restaurants were able to resume services after 10pm on Feb 1st.

Massachusetts

Governor: Charlie Baker (R)

On May 18th, limited industries in the state resumed operations with severe restrictions. Restaurants could offer delivery and curbside pickup. On May 25th, car washes, state beaches, parks, drive-in theaters and lab spaces opened. Hair salons and pet groomers (curbside pet drop-off/pickup) opened by appointment only. Office spaces opened at 25% capacity, excluding Boston, which had to wait until June 1st.

On June 8th, step 1 of Phase 2 of reopening began. Retail opened at 40% capacity. Outdoor dining at restaurants began. Other early phase 2 businesses allowed to reopen included childcare and day camps, hotels, warehouses, personal services without close contact, libraries, youth classes in arts/education/life skills, driving or flight schools, and funeral homes at 40% capacity. Step 2 of Phase 2 began June 22nd. Close-contact personal services resumed under guidelines. Offices expanded to 50% occupancy. Fitting rooms in retail stores opened by appointment only. Restaurants could offer indoor dining with no capacity limits but under other safety guidelines. Bar seating continued to be prohibited.

Step 1 of Phase 3 began in the beginning of July. The sectors that reopened were indoor movie theaters (40% occupancy), outdoor performance venues (25% occupancy), museums & cultural/historical sites (40% occupancy), fitness centers (40% occupancy), some indoor recreational activities, and professional sports without spectators. Indoor gatherings/events couldn’t exceed 25 people. Outdoor gatherings/events in enclosed places couldn't exceed 25% occupancy or 100 people. Retail offered 50% occupancy. Libraries allowed 40% capacity for browsing. Casinos and horse racing tracks opened with guidelines.

New statewide restrictions began August 12th, including strong face covering requirements and that outdoor gathering size limits were set to 50 people (indoor gatherings remain at 25 people).
Step 2 of Phase 3 began Oct. 5th for lower risk communities only. For these communities only, indoor and outdoor performance venues increased to 50% capacity (max of 250 people). For arcades and indoor and outdoor recreation businesses, additional Step II activities were permitted, and capacity increased to 50%. Fitting rooms opened in all types of retail stores. Gyms, museums, libraries and more increased their capacity to 50%. Outdoor gatherings increased the limit to 100 people.

Starting Nov. 6th, certain businesses and activities were required to close each day at 9:30pm, including in-person dining at restaurants. Additionally, indoor and outdoor private gathering size limits decreased to 10 and 25 people, respectively, and were to end by 9:30pm. The face covering order and stay at home advisory was also updated. Interstate youth hockey competitions for public and private schools had been suspended through Dec. 31st.

The entire state moved back into Step 1 of Phase 3 on Dec. 13th. This requires the closure of certain businesses that opened in Step 2. These include indoor performance venues and certain high-contact indoor recreational businesses. For most industries statewide, capacity limits are reduced to 40%, and the limit on outdoor gatherings is reduced statewide from 100 persons to 50 persons. Additional guidance also went into place for specific sectors, including restaurants, gyms and office spaces.

Further restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19 went into place on Dec. 26th, including a 25% capacity limit in most industries. Then, on Jan. 25th, some restrictions were eased, the stay-at-home advisory ended, and the 9:30pm curfew was lifted. However, the 25% capacity limit remains in place through at least Feb 8th.

**Michigan**

**Governor:** Gretchen Whitmer (D)

On May 22, Michigan extended its stay-at-home order until June 12, and the state of emergency until June 19. Even with this extension, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula regions were able to open retail stores at 25% capacity, bars and restaurants at 50% capacity, and offices. Salons, sporting/entertainment venues, gyms and casinos also reopened in these areas only. On May 26, retail businesses and auto dealerships reopened by appointment only. Small gatherings of 10 people were allowed.

On June 1st, the stay-at-home order was lifted, and the state moved into phase 4 of its 6-phase reopening plan. Outdoor gatherings of 100 people could happen. Offices, in-home services and outdoor fitness classes resumed. On June 4th, retailers in the rest of the state opened with limited capacity but without customers needing an appointment. The Upper Peninsula and Traverse City regions moved to phase 5 on June 5th.

On June 8th, restaurants resumed indoor and outdoor services at 50% capacity. Libraries, museums and outdoor fitness classes opened. Hair, nail, spa/massage businesses, overnight camps and school sports activities began reopening on June 15th. Gyms were still closed except in northern Michigan. On July 1st, indoor bars and nightclubs shut down in all regions except the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City, which were still the only two regions in phase 5.

Effective July 13th, individuals are required to wear masks while in any indoor public space or a crowded outdoor space. Any business that is open to the public is required to refuse entry/service to anyone who isn’t wearing a face covering, with limited exceptions. On July 31st, statewide indoor gatherings were limited to 10 and outdoor gatherings to 100. Additionally, bars in every region must stop indoor services if alcohol accounts for more than 70% of sales. Detroit casinos opened August 5th at 15% capacity and guidelines.

The state’s emergency order was extended on November 2nd. It reduced the size limit of some gatherings. The Traverse City Region, which previously had fewer restrictions, moved back to phase 4, joining the rest of the state.

A three-week pause happened on Nov. 18th. Under this, indoor residential gatherings were limited to 2 households at any one time. Bars and restaurants closed indoor dining. Casinos, movie theaters, some
entertainment facilities, group exercise classes, and organized sports (with some exceptions) had to close. In-person classes at colleges and high schools was prohibited.

On Dec. 21st, indoor activities with masks became allowed again. This included in-person learning at high schools and indoor entertainment venues. Casinos, bowling centers and movie theatres reopened with total capacity capped at 100. Indoor residential gatherings remain limited to 10 people and 2 households. Indoor dining, indoor group fitness classes, and some entertainment facilities are still closed.

The state updated its epidemic order today to allow re-opening of additional activities where Michiganders can remain masked and socially distanced. This includes indoor group exercise and non-contact sports. The new order began Jan. 16th.

Feb 1st began the resumption of indoor dining at restaurants with certain requirements; concessions at casinos, movie theaters and stadiums; personal services requiring mask removal; and non-residential gatherings of up to 10 people from two households. The requirements for restaurants and bars are to have a max. of 25% capacity and they must close by 10pm.

**Minnesota**

**Governor:** Tim Walz (D)

The state’s stay-at-home order expired on May 18th and was replaced with the “Stay Safe Minnesota” order. Under this order, all retail stores, malls and other businesses reopened on Monday, May 18th with social distancing and 50% occupancy. Drive-in gatherings reopened, as well as all industrial and office-based settings. Doctors, dentists, and veterinarians reopened. On May 27th, places of worship, funeral homes and other venues that offer gathering space for weddings, funerals and planned services reopened with 25% occupancy of up to 250 people.

Phase 2 started on June 1st, allowing restaurants and bars to reopen for outdoor dining with a maximum of 50 people. People can also hold small indoor social gatherings with 10 people or less, outdoor social gatherings with 25 people or less, and retail at 50% capacity. Barber shops, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, spas and massage settings reopened at 25% capacity. Campgrounds began reopening on June 1st, and all campgrounds at state parks, forests and recreation areas reopened by June 15th.

Phase 3 began on June 10th, allowing indoor restaurants, swimming pools, movie theaters, fitness clubs and other venues to resume limited business. Bars, restaurants, salons, barbershops and religious services reopened at 50 percent of capacity by reservation only. Gyms, theaters and other indoor entertainment like bowling alleys reopened with 25 percent capacity. Playing sports, as long as they’re deemed low risk, like tennis, and adhere to the 25-person outdoor limit and social distancing rules. High-risk sports competitions, like basketball, are still banned, though people could practice those sports while social distancing.

On July 13th, outside visitors deemed “essential caregivers” by state health officials are able to visit residents in nursing homes and assisted care facilities. Day services also reopened for adults in group settings with disabilities, giving them access to day centers that offer mental and emotional support, among other services.

On July 24th, an executive order went into effect that requires Minnesotans to wear masks to help curb the spread of COVID-19. It is required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, unless you are alone. This applies to both employees and customers. The mandate applies to everyone 5 years of age and older. Those under the age of 2 should not wear a mask due to risk of suffocation.

On July 30th, Governor Walz announced the “Safe Learning Plan” guidelines for reopening schools in Minnesota. The ultimate decision about whether children in Minnesota receive in-person learning, full-time distance learning from home or a hybrid model was up to each public-school district, including charter schools. Private schools are encouraged to follow the guidelines but are not required to. How much in-person learning can be offered will be dictated by county COVID-19 rates and whether schools can abide by
a list of social distancing, ventilation, sanitation and other safety rules laid out by the state. It also might differ depending on elementary, middle or high schools within a school district.

Effective November 13th, all bars and restaurants ended dine-in service between 10pm and 4am. The maximum indoor capacity is 50% and no more than 150 people. Bar counters are closed for seating and service, unless an establishment’s only offer is counter-service, in which case patrons can line up with masks and then return to their table. A 10-person limit also began for indoor and outdoor gatherings, while social gatherings are now limited to members of three households or less. Receptions related to weddings, funerals, and similar events will have a phased approach regarding capacity limits but will eventually lead to a 25-person cap. Additionally, such receptions are not allowed between 10pm and 4am.

On November 18th, Governor Walz announced the “Dial Back, Minnesota” executive order, which began on Friday, November 20th, at 11:59pm and lasting until Friday, December 18th. In-person social gatherings with individuals outside your household are prohibited; bars and restaurants are dialed back to take-out and delivery service only; gyms, fitness studios, entertainment venues, event spaces, and similar establishments are closed; and adult and youth sports are paused. Retail businesses, salons, and places of worship may continue to operate with proper precautions in place. Childcare remains open. Schools will continue to operate under the Safe Learning Plan, which shifts between in-person, distance, and hybrid learning depending on the local conditions of the virus. All other current restrictions also remain in effect.

As of December 3rd, 47 out of the state’s 50 largest school districts moved to distance learning for all students. Middle and high school students are learning from home in all 50 of those districts, which accounted for 59 percent of the state’s public K-12 enrollment last year. Just three will continue letting elementary students learn in-person.

On December 16th, Governor Walz announced an extension of some of the restrictions on businesses and social gathering that he put into effect in the “Dial Back, Minnesota” executive order, while lifting or softening others. Most notably, the current month-long ban on indoor bar and restaurant service will extend through January 10th at 11:59 p.m. — but limited outdoor dining is now allowed. Rules restricting social gatherings have been loosened. Under the previous guidance, the state banned gatherings, indoors or outdoors, among people from different households. Under the revised rules, small outdoor holiday gatherings — with specific restrictions — will be allowed. Additionally, gyms and fitness centers are allowed to reopen, and youth sports teams were allowed to resume practicing on January 4th. Walz also announced a plan to prioritize in-person learning for elementary school students.

On Monday, January 11th, Governor Walz loosened some COVID-19 restrictions, including allowing restaurants and bars across Minnesota to reopen for indoor dining at 50% capacity, with 150 people max. Parties up to six people are allowed to sit together with tables properly spaced. Parties of two can order at bars, but then are required to return to their tables. Service must stop by 10 p.m. Other indoor entertainment venues can now also reopen, like bowling alleys, movie theaters, museums and other establishments. They'll be open at 25% capacity, with no more than 150 people inside a venue at once. Gyms, another business under statewide restrictions, will remain at 25% capacity, but the maximum number of people allowed inside increases to 150. Class sizes increase to 25 people if proper distancing can be enforced. Governor Walz also told reporters it's possible they could be rescinded again if there's another surge in virus cases.

On January 13th, Governor Walz won legislative approval to extend Minnesota's peacetime state of emergency by another 30 days so he can continue to use executive orders to direct the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

On January 19th, elementary school students in many districts across Minnesota took their seats in classrooms for the start of a phased-in return to in-person instruction during the pandemic. Teachers and other staff members are "strongly recommended" to wear both face masks and clear face shields, plexiglass barriers are installed in areas where teachers can't maintain social distancing from students, and schools are offering virus tests to staff members every two weeks. The reopening of many schools is a major shift
for the state, where schools' decisions about moving between distance, hybrid and in-person learning have been primarily based on how much the coronavirus is spreading in local communities.

Mississippi

**Governor:** Tate Reeves (R)

The “Safer at Home” plan allowed the following to reopen prior to June 1st with restrictions: Retail businesses were open with restrictions on occupation of no more than 50% of normal capacity, and with social distancing protocols in effect. Dentists and physicians started offering elective medical procedures again. Restaurants and bars were allowed inside dining with social distancing and no more than 50% capacity. On May 11th, gyms (no more than 30% capacity), barber shops/hair and nail salons reopened. Tattoo parlors reopened on May 21st with only one customer per employee allowed at a time. Casinos also reopened on May 21st with “strict guidelines” for casino workers and no more than 50% capacity and strict social distancing. Outdoor recreation facilities including parks, playgrounds, and racetracks reopened with sanitizing protocols, 50% capacity, as well as social distancing measures in effect. This plan expired on June 1st. When the plan expired, no new plan was put into place, thus allowing all businesses to reopen, as long as they follow safety guidelines, and with certain restrictions to try to minimize spread of the coronavirus.

As of June 1st, schools and indoor sports complexes, such as weight rooms and training facilities reopened. Outdoor sports complexes have reopened, although concession stands will remain closed. Indoor entertainment venues such as movie theaters, museums, bowling alleys and trampoline parks also reopened with limits on the number of customers. Indoor gatherings may have up to 50 people and outdoor gatherings may have up to 100. For situations in which social distancing is not possible, indoor gatherings are limited to 20 people and outdoor gatherings may have up to 50. All types of health care procedures will be allowed as long as hospitals reserve at least 25% of their space for COVID-19 patients. Mississippi DMV’s resumed service on June 8th.

On July 20th, Mississippi instituted mask requirements and a prohibition on large gatherings in 23 of the 82 counties. On July 24th, 6 more counties were added and on Monday, August 3rd, 8 more counties were added. On August 4th, Governor Reeves announced a new executive order that requires every Mississippian to wear a mask at public gatherings and when shopping.

On July 24th, Governor Reeves issued statewide COVID-19 limits on bars and social gatherings. Bars can now only sell alcohol to seated customers, and no alcohol can be sold at restaurants or bars from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Additionally, Reeves updated a statewide order that limits indoor social gatherings to 10 people and outdoor social gatherings to 20. They went into effect immediately and was to last until 8 a.m. Aug. 3rd, but was extended to Monday, August 17th. On August 17th, Reeves again extended his Safer Return order, including the above and the statewide mask mandate, until Aug. 31st. On August 31st, Reeves again extended the order an additional 2 weeks. On Monday, September 14th, Reeves again extended the mandate through the end of September, saying he believes it is helping slow the spread of the new coronavirus. As of September 30th, Mississippi has become the first state to lift a statewide mask mandate. Governor Reeves lifted the mask mandate that was in place since early August, though face coverings will still be required in schools and certain businesses.

Governor Reeves also issued a new “Safe Recovery” executive order on September 30th, which expires on November 11th. The order eases some social distancing restrictions, allowing up to 50% of capacity attendance at school events such as football games, and 50% inside movie theaters. It also provides new limits for social gatherings where distancing isn’t possible, to no more than 20 inside and 100 outside. On November 11th, Governor Reeves announced he is extending his Safe Recovery order into December, affecting residents in 15 counties across the state. The order will now remain in effect until December 11th.

Mississippi Department of Education announced that schools had three options for the new school year: They could operate in a traditional, face to face setting, virtually, or some combination of the two. It is not
mandating which option districts should choose. Districts were required to create a plan approved by their local school boards and post it publicly by July 31st. On July 30th, Governor Reeves said he wants to get as many kids back to school as possible. Reeves said he feels there is a way to do this and not go all virtual. Reeves emphasized the importance of learning in person, especially for kids who already struggle in school.

On August 17th, Governor Reeves put into effect restrictions on crowd limits for all K-12 sports and other activities, including high school football. Reeves’ executive order restricts attendance at all K-12 activities to two per student participating in the activity, excluding coaches, directors, teachers, officials, medical personnel, staff workers and media. On August 31st, Governor Reeves increased the number of spectators at sporting events and other extracurricular school gatherings from two per student to 25% capacity when social distancing can occur.

As of November 20th, schools and districts across Mississippi have shut their doors and transitioning to online learning. Schools reported record-high COVID-19 infections among students and teachers for the week of November 9th. Statewide, more than 9,000 students, teachers and staff had to quarantine the week of November 9th alone, according to data provided by the Mississippi Department of Health. The state Department of Education has delivered about 325,000 laptop computers or tablets to public schools in recent weeks. The devices were purchased with part of the coronavirus relief money that Mississippi received from the federal government.

As of December 7th, Governor Reeves imposed a mask mandate in 54 counties — all of which saw 200 positive cases over a two-week period — "to ensure that we can mitigate and minimize the spread of the virus." These 54 counties represent two-thirds of Mississippi’s 82 total counties. These counties must also limit social gatherings to 10 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.

On December 22nd, Governor Reeves issued another Executive Order that requires 78 of Mississippi’s 82 counties to wear face masks. The Executive Orders that are in place are set to expire on Friday, January 15th, 2021. Under the initial order, residents in impacted counties had to wear face coverings while in public where social distancing is not possible. People also had to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people for indoor events and no more than 50 for outdoor events. Venues for K-12 extracurricular activities were also limited to 25% of total capacity for indoor arenas and 50% capacity for outdoor arenas. Many of these restrictions exist in the new order, but sports venues have been further limited. The new order states indoor venues must now limit themselves to four spectators per student or a maximum of 250 ticketed spectators, depending on the size of the arena. Other indoor sports arenas will be limited to 10% seating capacity or 1,000 attendees, whichever is lower. Face coverings in schools are also required statewide whenever social distancing is not possible.

On January 15th, Governor Reeves announced changes to an existing mandate that now requires residents in 75 counties to wear face coverings and follow enhanced safety precautions. According to the new executive order, the mandate will be in effect until February 3rd. Residents in the affected counties must wear masks inside businesses, schools or other public indoor spaces when at least 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. They also must keep groups to no more than 50 outdoors and no more than 10 indoors when social distancing isn't possible.

**Missouri**

**Governor:** Mike Parson (R)

Phase 1 of the “Show-Me Strong Recovery Plan” began on May 4th and allowed stores with less than 10,000 square feet to reopen with 25% occupancy and stores with more than 10,000 square feet to reopen with 10% occupancy. Medical providers provided usual services at their discretion. Additionally, casinos reopened on June 1st.

Phase 2 began on June 16th, which has no statewide health order. All statewide restrictions were lifted, though local officials will still have the authority to put further rules, regulations, or ordinances in place.
On July 9th, the Missouri Department of Education released guidance for reopening schools. Recommendations include screening students and faculty for symptoms, limiting students and faculty to the same group of people every day (cohorting), and requesting students and faculty wear masks. There are no statewide health mandates for K-12 schools to follow as they reopen but the health department has provided some strategies that Missouri schools can implement to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. While there is no guidance on distance learning, many school districts are preparing for flexible reopening plans that include both in-person and distance learning. On August 6th, updated guidance was released and included both proactive and reactive strategies schools can use to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, the updated guidelines now include guidance on online learning if an outbreak in a school occurs. As of September 19th, 88 percent of all Missouri school districts offered students the option of learning in person at least part of the week. Additionally, 255 districts — or nearly 46 percent — were seated with a virtual option. A hybrid or blended option was available in 58 districts, or slightly more than 10 percent, and 63 districts were fully virtual. Only 181 of the 557 districts rely solely on in-person learning, and most are small. Additionally, as of October 5th, at least 105 districts — 20 percent of Missouri’s public-school districts — have officially adopted a four-day school week. Most operate Tuesday through Friday, giving families and employees a three-day weekend.

On November 12th, Governor Parson introduced new guidance that relaxed Missouri’s K-12 school quarantine guidance, and encourages mask wearing. The new guidance stresses proper mask wearing may prevent people from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools. According to the guidance, if two people wore masks and one tested positive for COVID-19 then the exposed individual will not need to quarantine as long as they do not show symptoms.

As of November 29th, Missouri State Parks closed all indoor facilities in response to climbing coronavirus case numbers. This includes nature centers, visitor centers, museums, and offices. Contact information will be posted throughout the parks.

On November 30th, Governor Parson signed an executive order that allows for schools to initiate contact tracing when a COVID-19 case is confirmed. In a participating school, contact tracing will occur and those identified will be monitored for symptoms of the virus and offered testing “at various time points to detect asymptomatic cases”, according to the order.

On December 19th, Governor Parson asked Missourians to take personal responsibility as the winter holidays draw closer. He, however, said via Twitter that he would not “mandate who goes in the front door of your home” this holiday season. In a follow-up Facebook post, Governor Parson encouraged Missourians to social distance, wear a mask and wash their hands.

St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis remained under stay-at-home orders until May 17th. Under a multi-phase plan, on May 18th, restaurants reopened dining rooms as long as tables are 6 feet apart, and retail shops reopened provided social distancing. Personal services like hair and nail salons and tattoo parlors also reopened, and casinos reopened on June 1st throughout Missouri, including St. Louis. Bars in St. Louis County reopened on June 8th. All other businesses reopened June 15th, including gyms, pools, bowling allies, conference centers, attractions, ballrooms, banquet and meeting spaces and mass sporting events.

On June 29th, capacity limits were raised from 25% to 50% for all businesses and outdoor gatherings no longer have restrictions. Indoor gatherings, including weddings and funerals and outdoor reunions will no longer be limited to 10 or less. On July 3rd, St. Louis County and St. Louis City issued new public health orders requiring all individuals to wear a face mask or covering at all times when in indoor facilities and outside when social distancing is not possible. On July 6th, capacity limits were increased to 75% and on July 20th, businesses no longer had any restrictions.

On August 13th, tightened COVID-19 restrictions for St. Louis City went into effect. The change lowered the capacity limit for bars, restaurants and nightclubs and imposed an 11 p.m. closing for those businesses. Previously, bars and restaurants did not have a curfew nor capacity limits in the city but were required to enforce 6-foot distances between customers and follow city guidelines for masks, cleaning and screening.
employees. The new order also requires all businesses to encourage staff to isolate if they have been exposed to the virus, or while they await results of a COVID-19 test. On August 24th, the St. Louis County health department toughened its order requiring face masks, in an effort to keep the coronavirus from spreading. Businesses are not able to serve people who aren’t wearing masks, and children over age 5 have to wear them in school. People also need to wear masks at indoor and outdoor businesses. Health officials cited an increasing number of coronavirus cases and the growing risk of transmission among schoolchildren. While no definitive end date was issued, Mayor Krewson said this when asked, “I don’t think we’re going to see a lift in the mask requirement until there’s a vaccine and it’s widely available.” On Monday, September 21st, St. Louis County reopened its playgrounds. They had been closed since early April.

As of October 7th, St. Louis County raised the maximum occupancy rate for businesses from 25 percent to 50 percent. They are also now allowing the “controlled use” of self-service food and drink stations at restaurants and convenience stores. A mask-mandate is still in place. Additionally, they have recommended that high school students have the option to return to in-person learning. Students may also play games in high-contact sports like football, basketball, and hockey.

Tighter COVID-19 restrictions began in St. Louis County on November 17th, as COVID-19 continue to rise in the St. Louis area. County residents are asked to stay at home and only go out for essential business and necessities. Essential reasons to leave the house include going to get food or groceries, going to work, getting medical care, going to places of worship and visiting others in their bubble. Social bubbles should be limited to 10 people, including friends and family. All social gatherings also are limited to 10 people. Indoor dining is banned, but restaurants and bars can continue to offer patio seating, curbside and takeout. All businesses are limited to 25% capacity, which is a reduction again from the 50% that was allowed. Additionally, face masks must be worn by everyone 6 years old and older when they leave their house. This includes when visiting someone else’s house. An exception can be made while eating or drinking as long as social distancing is being practiced. St. Louis County is extending its COVID-19 restrictions, keeping them in place at least through Christmas. On December 14th, County Executive Sam Page made the announcement that the “Safer at Home” health orders will be extended for another two weeks.

On January 4th, Dr. Page announced that indoor dining can now resume in St. Louis County bars and restaurants. They are limited to 25% capacity, must close by 10 p.m. every night and follow some other safety protocols to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Dr. Page also said restaurants and bars will need to record the names and contact information of all patrons, to assist with contact tracing, and some bars will need to install plastic or plexiglass "physical barriers". Restrictions on restaurants in St. Louis County could be eased again as soon as February if COVID-19 cases remain steady. On February 1st, St. Louis County Executive Sam Page changed the county's curfew on restaurants and banquets from 10 to 11 p.m.

Kansas City was originally under a plan called the 10-10-10 plan. Under the 10-10-10 plan, gatherings of up to 10 people were allowed. Larger businesses had a capacity of 10% of people. Masks/face coverings and 6 feet of social distancing will be enforced. Restaurants opened with tables 10 feet apart and no bar seating. Also, on May 15th, gyms, dog parks and playgrounds, public access to government buildings and community centers, as well as the Kansas City Zoo reopened. On May 31st, the 10-10-10 plan expired, and a new order went into effect. Starting on May 31st, under the new order, almost all businesses and restaurants opened with up to 50% of their capacity, as long as six feet of social distancing is maintained. Large gatherings such as church services, weddings and performances may occur, as long as they adhere to the 50% capacity limit. Outdoor gatherings will not be limited, as long as social distancing measures are in place. On June 29th, percentage capacity limits in Kansas City were eliminated, except for taverns and bars.

Also, effective Monday June 29th, a face mask rule was put into effect in Kansas City, and mandates that all employees or visitors to any place of public accommodation must wear face coverings in an area or while performing an activity which involves close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible. This order was in effect until August 15th, but on August 13th, Mayor Lucas extended the order until at least January 15th, 2021.
The order also extends restrictions on restaurants and bars. Bars are limited to serving 50% of their normal capacity. Restaurant tables must be placed six feet apart, and masks are required until patrons are seated and eating. Masks are also required at salons and gyms, where social distancing may not be possible.

On November 20th, new Kansas City COVID-19 restrictions went into effect. Mayor Lucas announced the new restrictions, and Jackson, Wyandotte, Clay and Platte counties followed suit, passing similar measures shortly after. Bars and restaurants must now close at 10 p.m. in addition to 50% restricted capacity. Everyone inside must wear a mask unless they are eating or drinking. Restaurants are still allowed to continue with drive-thru, delivery and carry-out services after 10 p.m. Gyms are also limited to half capacity, and everyone still must wear a mask, even when working out. Other indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people.

On January 13th, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said he is extending the State of Emergency in Kansas City until May 1st, 2021 but will be relaxing part of the emergency order that pertains to bars and restaurants. An order issued in November greatly limited capacity for indoor gatherings, including at bars and restaurants, and required the closing of bars and restaurants at 10 p.m. "We will join the rest of the region with a midnight closing time," Lucas said, adding that within a month they will review that guidance to see if it can be further relaxed, or if it needs to be rolled back. The capacity limits remain the same, the mask requirement remains in place, and social distancing measures are still required. This is Lucas's twelfth amended order.

**Montana**

**Governor:** Greg Gianforte (R) (as of January 4th, 2021)

Phase one of the “Reopening the Big Sky” plan allowed all schools the option to return to in-classroom teaching delivery at the discretion of local school boards. On May 15th, the following businesses reopened with certain guidelines: movie theatres, gyms and museums. These guidelines include adhering to strict 50% capacity, social distancing, and sanitation guidelines. Montana’s travel quarantine expired on May 31st, with residents returning from out of state or out of state travelers no longer having to quarantine for 14 days.

Phase two of the “Reopening the Big Sky” plan began on June 1st and allowed gatherings in groups of up to 50 people in circumstances that allow for appropriate physical distancing are allowed. Restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries increased capacity to 75%. Gyms, indoor group fitness classes, pool, and hot tubs can also operate at 75% capacity only if they can adhere to strict physical distancing and they exercise frequent sanitation protocols. Concert halls, bowling alleys, and other places of assembly reopened with reduced capacity and if they adhere to strict physical distancing guidelines. Also, on June 1st, Montana’s entrance gates to Yellowstone National Park reopened. Visitation at nursing homes continued to be suspended, except in certain compassion care situations.

The Montana National Guard will continue to conduct screenings at airports and train depots, referring anyone with COVID-19-related symptoms to local public health officials. As coronavirus cases continue to escalate in Montana, Gov. Bullock will not be putting more restrictions at the state level at this time. Bullock said counties have the ability to add restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

Phase three of the plan, which does not yet have a date, will include no limit on group sizes, while vulnerable populations can resume public interactions, but should practice physical distancing and taking precautionary measures. Employers can resume full staffing of workplaces, visits to senior care facilities can resume, interstate tourism travel can resume, and campground group-use facilities, playgrounds and visitors can fully open.

On July 15th, Governor Bullock issued a statewide order requiring the use of a face covering in some settings to slow the spread of COVID-19. The order applies to counties with four or more active Coronavirus cases. It will expire at the end of the statewide declaration of emergency. 52 counties out of the state’s 56 had four or more active cases as of November 17th. The directive requires businesses, government offices
and other indoor spaces that are open to the public to make sure their employees, contractors, volunteers, customers and other members of the public wear a face covering. The directive also applies to outdoor activities attended by 50 people or more when social distancing is either not possible or not followed. It extends to residents and visitors to the state. Businesses must post signs that masks are required for those ages 5 and up. Masks are not required when consuming food or drinks in establishments that offer those products for sale.

Governor Bullock announced a 3-phase plan for reopening schools in Montana. Phase I lifts the stay-at-home order to allow for gradual re-opening while minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through strict social distancing and building safety protocols. Schools may offer in-person instruction depending upon the circumstances of their community. Phase II, school districts will open and will continue to adhere to strict social distancing and building safety protocols. Limitations around large social gatherings remain in place. Phase III eases most restrictions, but still encourages social distancing and limitations on large social gatherings to allow the economy to strategically reopen while continuing to prioritize public health. On July 31st, Governor Bullock issued a directive to provide flexibility for local school districts to offer remote or offsite education in order to protect students and teachers from the spread of COVID-19 when schools reopen this fall.

On August 12th, Governor Bullock extended a statewide mandate requiring the use of cloth face coverings to everyone in K-12 school buildings, both private and public. On September 11th, Governor Bullock announced new coronavirus response protocols for K-12 schools. The protocols were designed by a group of public health experts and are based on a plan put together by Rhode Island. The protocols, available online, include information on COVID-19 symptoms; when to call for emergency care; how to determine close contacts; when to quarantine, isolate, and recommend testing; and when to allow students and staff to return to school.

On November 17th, Governor Bullock announced a new round of directives which limits crowd size and closes bars, restaurants and casinos at 10 p.m., in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. His mask mandate, which called for masks and face coverings in counties with four or more active cases is now in effect statewide. The directive also requires restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos to operate at 50% of normal capacity. Tables must be limited to six people, with 6 feet of physical distance between groups. The directive limits public gatherings and events to 25 people where it is not possible to practice social distancing or where social distancing is not being practiced. This directive does not alter the existing requirements for K-12 schools or apply to houses of worship. While there is no expiration date set for the directive, it is worth noting that Democratic Governor Bullock’s term ended on January 4th, 2021 and incoming Republican Governor Greg Gianforte was sworn in.

On January 13th, the new Governor announced that he is removing existing health mandates issued by his predecessor, saying the restrictions are harmful to the state's businesses. Gianforte, a Republican, said his goal is to move away from specific mandates and toward “personal responsibility.” Under the new rules, which took effect on January 15th, restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos are no longer required to close at 10 p.m., a requirement put in place by Democratic former Governor Steve Bullock in November as the state reached an apex in daily reported COVID-19 cases. Gianforte also removed capacity limits for businesses, instead encouraging them to follow public health guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and industry groups. Under the Bullock-issued rule, restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries and casinos were limited to 50% capacity. The new rules remove limits on the size of public gatherings. The previous regulation stated that gatherings where social distancing isn’t possible were limited to 25 people. Counties are still permitted to issue stricter local health mandates. Health officials in some counties, including Gallatin and Missoula, have indicated they intend to keep in place certain stricter local measures that are currently in place, including gathering-size limits and capacity limits for certain businesses.
A statewide mask mandate issued in July 2020 remains in place. Gianforte has said that he would keep the requirement until more vulnerable people received the COVID-19 vaccine and the Legislature passed a law protecting businesses and health care providers from coronavirus-related lawsuits.

**Nebraska**

**Governor:** Pete Ricketts (R)

Under phase one of a multi-phase plan, places of worship resumed services abiding by social distancing rules. Restaurants were limited to 50% of maximum occupancy. Salons, massage and tattoo parlors reopened with a strict 10-person rule with employees and customers wearing masks. Childcare facilities were permitted to have up 15 children per room/space. Elective surgeries, dental offices, eye care clinics and veterinary clinics resumed services, provided they meet certain capacity requirements. Gyms also reopened, many opening with reservations only and/or signing a waiver disclaimer, and with strict sanitizing guidelines.

On June 1st, Phase 2 went into effect in 89 counties, while Hall, Merrick, Hamilton and Dakota counties stepped up to the first phase of businesses reopening. Bars reopened with 50% occupancy and social distancing. Indoor and outdoor arenas, indoor and outdoor auctions, stadiums, tracks, fairgrounds, festivals, zoos, auditoriums, large event conference rooms, meeting halls, indoor theaters, libraries, swimming pools, movie theaters reopened with either 25 people, excluding staff, or 25% of the location’s rated occupancy. Small concerts and auctions, and certain low and intermediate contact sports resumed. School gyms reopened to 50% of rated occupancy, as well as weddings, funerals, salons and barber shops with the six-foot spacing.

Phase 3 began on June 22nd for 89 counties, permitting bars and restaurants to open at full capacity, but with a table limit of 8 people. It also allowed indoor gatherings to be held at 50% occupancy, and 75% occupancy for outdoor gatherings, gyms, spas, salons and tattoo parlors, with other safety guidelines still in place. Elective surgeries no longer have any restrictions. For gatherings over 500 people, organizers need to get approval from local health department. In Douglas County, that number is 1,000 people. This includes large gatherings in venues like arenas, stadiums, tracks, zoos, libraries and more. Gyms, fitness centers, health clubs and spas will be limited to 75 percent capacity. Parades, street dances and beer gardens are still closed at this time. Hall, Merrick, Hamilton and Dakota counties moved from phase 1 into phase 2 while the rest of the counties moved into phase 3, thus following phase 2 procedures and restrictions. On July 6th, those 4 counties moved into phase 3, putting all of Nebraska in Phase 3.

On July 24th, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services announced that the Loup Basin Public Health Department moved into Phase 4 of the directed health measures. That move happened for the nine counties in the district. The Department of Health and Human Services also announced that the 9 counties in the North Central Health Department’s jurisdiction moved to phase 4 on August 1st. Phase 4 of reopening removes capacity restrictions on bars, restaurants, childcare centers and a number of other indoor businesses, allows outdoor venues to operate at 100% of capacity but keeps gatherings at indoor facilities to 75% of rated occupancy. Events of 500 or more people still must submit plans to the local health department. Phase 4 also makes social distancing a recommendation rather than a mandate.

On September 14th, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services announced all of the state’s counties, except one, moved to Phase 4 of the state’s reopening plan. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services said Lancaster County is the only one in the state to remain in Phase 3. DHHS officials said the state based its decision to move all counties to Phase 4 on recent hospital capacity.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services continue to ask Nebraskans returning from international travel and visitors coming to the state for less than 14 days to self-quarantine for the duration of their visit. The recommendation excludes health care workers, commuters and certain other groups.

Nebraska Department of Education released a 25-page document for superintendents on how to return to schools. Schools have a color-coded system that indicates when schools open and what education should
look like. For instance, green is all systems go and red would mean moving back to a remote learning model. The guidance offers information to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, including social distancing measures and identifying and implementing health measures for students who are sick. The document also includes guidance on environmental cleaning, personal hygiene, healthy food preparation and meal service and safe protocols for transportation. On September 21st, Governor Ricketts discussed a new Directed Health Measure involving schools. One major change is allowing more students to remain in schools after limited COVID-19 exposure. Students who are exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case can return to the classroom without a quarantine if both the exposed and positive person were wearing masks. If either party is unmasked, students will be required to quarantine.

On August 12th, the city of Omaha passed an ordinance mandating masks be worn inside schools, businesses, churches and other indoor settings open to the public. Until the ordinance’s approval, Omaha was the largest city in the United States without a local or state-imposed mask mandate. Even though on September 14th Omaha moved into phase 4 of reopening, which no longer has capacity limits, the mask mandate will still be enforced. It was set to expire on November 24th but was extended until February 23rd, 2021 amid a surge in cases.

Additionally, the city of Lincoln, as well as the rest of Lancaster County, also mandated masks and carry forward the current restrictions through October. On October 24th, Lincoln extended their mask order through the end of November. On November 25th, the mandate was extended through December 16th.

On October 16th, Governor Ricketts issued a new Directed Health Measure for the state that went into effect on October 21st. The following changes have been made: Hospitals must make sure at least 10% of their general and intensive care unit beds are reserved to treat COVID-19 patients. Hospitals are allowed to continue performing general and elective procedures but can’t transfer COVID-19 patients to make room for them. Restaurants and bars are still able to operate at 100% capacity, but now require their patrons to remain seated at their tables the entire time they are there, unless they are placing an order, using the restroom or playing games at a bar. Groups of people are now limited to no more than eight. Indoor gatherings are limited to 50% capacity, which can’t exceed more than 10,000 people. Weddings and funerals are still able to be held in person at 100% occupancy but will now be limited to 8 people per table. All Centers for Disease Control recommendations still apply.

On November 9th, Governor Ricketts announced additional restrictions requiring masks in some circumstances to slow the spread of the coronavirus, but he still rejected the idea of a statewide mask mandate. Masks are now required at businesses where employees have close contact with customers for more than 15 minutes, such as salons and massage parlors. At bars, masks are required when people aren’t drinking or eating. Other restrictions include six feet of separation between parties in all instances including gyms/fitness centers, health spas, restaurants, bars, clubs, weddings, funerals, churches, and other indoor gatherings.

On November 20th, Governor Ricketts announced that Nebraska is nearing his hospitalization-based trigger point to renew some prior COVID-19 restrictions while acknowledging that the state has incurred an unacceptable backlog in performing its contact-tracing responsibilities. The governor earlier announced that those restrictions, including reducing the authorized size of indoor gatherings to 10 people and outdoor gatherings to 25 people while limiting bars to take-out and drive-thru service, would automatically be reinstated once COVID-19 patients occupied 25% of the state’s hospital beds. Ricketts, who has encouraged Nebraskans to wear masks when they shop for groceries or gather indoors or in crowded conditions, has continued to resist a mandate, suggesting that "masks are one of the tools."

On December 11th, Governor Ricketts announced that the state is moving from the “orange” to “yellow” phase of its coronavirus pandemic response plan. The State of Nebraska issued a new Directed Health Measures (DHMs) effective 12:01 AM on Saturday, December 12th, 2020. The new DHMs changed some of the restrictions put in place to help manage the coronavirus pandemic. The yellow phase allows hospitals to perform elective surgeries, indoor capacity from 25 percent to 50 percent and six-foot separation indoors is
now a guidance, rather than a mandate. Fan attendance at extracurricular activities—both school and club—is no longer limited to household members of participants. Parties at restaurants and bars remain limited to groups of 8 or less. Individuals must still be seated unless ordering food, using the restroom, or playing games. Six feet of separation between groups returns to a guidance. The maximum capacity for indoor gatherings went from 25% to 50%. Only certain venues where people convene are considered “gatherings” under the State’s DHMs. Masks are recommended, rather than required, for establishments such as childcare centers, salons, barber shops, massage therapists, and body art studios. Elective surgeries can resume as long as a hospital keeps 10% of its capacity available to treat coronavirus patients.

On December 23rd, Governor Ricketts announced that a sustained decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations in Nebraska has triggered a reduction in the state’s coronavirus restrictions. The new "blue" rating became effective at 12:01 a.m. December 24th. Moving to "blue" on the state's rating scale allows more people for gatherings in a single room, increasing from 50% of capacity to 75% of capacity and in some cases changes requirements to guidance only. Among the changes in the "blue" rating: Seating persons in groups of eight or less returned to guidance rather than a requirement for restaurants, bars, wedding and funeral receptions, and other venues. The requirement for individuals at bars and restaurants to be seated unless ordering food, using the restroom or playing games, returned to guidance. Elective surgeries resumed without restriction. The changes to the state's directed health measure did not apply in Lancaster County, which has its own rules in place, including a mask mandate, early closing times for bars and restaurants and tighter capacity restrictions. The local directed health measure runs through January 31st, 2021.

On Friday, January 22nd, the Directive Health Measure in Lincoln and Lancaster counties were dropped out of the red for the first time since November. With the Risk Dial now in the orange, the new DHM's allow indoor gatherings that are capped at 50% capacity and confined outdoor gatherings capped at 75% capacity, with no gatherings to exceed 10,000 individuals. Large events of more than 500 people can now resume, after being approved by the health department. Restaurants and other service establishments must cap parties at eight, with occupancy remaining at 50%. Patrons must remain seated unless ordering food/drinks, using the restroom, or participating in games. Bars can reopen and serve alcohol. Sports venues submit a request to allow additional spectators to attend sporting events to the local health department. Door-to-door sales and peddler permits may also resume.

On January 29th, Governor Pete Ricketts announced that the state is moving from the “blue” to “green” phase of its coronavirus pandemic response plan. As a result, the State of Nebraska issued new Directed Health Measures (DHMs) effective 12:01 AM Saturday, January 30th, 2021. The maximum capacity for indoor gatherings, including youth extracurricular activities, went from 75% to 100%. Organizers of gatherings of 500 or more people (1,000 or more in Douglas County), must still submit a reopening plan to their local health department—and receive approval—before holding their events. Aside from this requirement, there are no restrictions on gatherings/venues in the “green” phase of the state’s plan. However, guidance is still in place and recommended. Additionally, the new DHMs have updated quarantine requirements. Nebraskans who’ve been fully vaccinated (received both doses of the coronavirus vaccine) do not have to quarantine after a close contact. Instead, they will be in the “self-monitor” category, which involves wearing a mask for 14 days from the date of exposure and monitoring for symptoms. Nebraskans who have recovered from the coronavirus in the past three months do not need to quarantine after a close contact, though they’re encouraged to monitor for symptoms. The new DHMs also amend the definition of “close contact” to clarify that exposures start 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or positive test.

**Nevada**

**Governor:** Steve Sisolak (D)

Phase 1 of Nevada’s Roadmap to Recovery reopening plan included the opening of restaurants at 50% occupancy, barbershops and hair & nails salons (appointment only), and retail businesses at 50% capacity. Beverage facilities (e.g. breweries) without food service must not serve drinks for consumption on the premises.
Phase 2 began May 29. This included allowing gatherings of up to 50 people. Retail and restaurants could continue at 50% capacity. All bars, pubs, wineries and breweries reopened and could serve at the bar top at 50% capacity. Salons and businesses that provide aesthetic or skin services (such as facials, hair removal, tanning) reopened by appointment only. Spas, gyms & fitness facilities reopened with capacity limits and guidelines. Museums, water parks, pools, indoor and outdoor venues, zoos and art galleries reopened at 50% capacity.

June 4th began the reopening of gaming establishments with strict rules and guidelines, such as a 50% capacity limit and table game limits, which include no more than 3 players at a blackjack table, and 4 players for roulette and poker tables. Masks became mandatory in any public space on June 26th.

Effective July 11th, bars, pubs, taverns, distilleries, breweries, and wineries that don’t serve food in 7 Nevada counties closed. A long-term mitigation plan was unveiled Aug 3rd, called “Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal”. It’s a shift from a statewide approach to a more targeted strategy tailored for each county. If a county is seeing higher risk, it will enter an assessment and review process that may result in changing the county’s mitigation level.

Bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries and wineries reopened at 50% capacity with restrictions/guidelines in the city of Pahrump on Sept. 11th, in Washoe County on Sept. 16th, and in Clark and Elko counties on Sept. 20th.

On Oct. 1st, a new directive increased the gatherings limit in indoor and outdoor venues to 250 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is less. As of Oct. 5th, all businesses subject to capacity limitations must post signs for their adjusted occupancy.

Additional restrictions went into place on Nov. 24th. The capacity was reduced to 25% for restaurants, bars, gaming operations, gyms, fitness facilities and other businesses. Retail stores remain at 50% capacity. Public gatherings are limited to 50 people or 25% capacity and there may be no large events. Private gatherings are limited to 10 people from no more than 2 households. Face coverings at all times are required. This pause was supposed to last for 3 weeks but has been extended through Jan. 15th.

On Dec. 15th, faith gatherings and houses of worship had updated guidance to allow 25% capacity. On Jan 11th, the state’s current mitigation measures and pause were extended for another 30 days.

**New Hampshire**

**Governor:** Chris Sununu (R)

Starting on May 4th, New Hampshire’s “Stay at Home 2.0” plan allowed hospitals to resume some elective surgery procedures if they are time sensitive. State parks, campgrounds, and golf courses opened to residents and private members only. Gatherings of under 10 people were permitted. Manufacturing facilities reopened following the states universal guidelines for employers and employees. On May 11th, golf courses, person care/beauty establishments, retail stores and drive-in movie theaters reopened with restrictions. Barbershops and hair salons reopened by appointment and are limited in the number of chairs in use. Retail locations reopened at 50% occupancy. On May 18th, restaurants began providing outdoor dining in addition to existing take-out/delivery services. Servers must wear masks and tables must be spaced 6 ft. apart with no more than 6 diners per table.

On June 1st, acupuncturists, tattoo artists, cosmetologists and massage therapists were allowed to reopen with safety restrictions. Small fitness classes like yoga and martial arts also reopened but gyms remained closed to other uses. Behind the wheel driver's education classes resumed in accordance with the state’s guidance as well. Places of worship are now allowed to have 40% capacity. On June 5th, seacoast beaches reopened. Also, on June 5th, hotels and short-term rentals in New Hampshire resumed service for in-state residents and out of state residents who have quarantined for 14 days. Additionally, some golfing restrictions were relaxed, such as, shortening the break in between tee-times and allowing two people from separate households in the same golf cart. Golf courses are now open to out-of-state residents as well.
On June 15th, restaurants began to serve customers indoors with social distancing guidelines in place, with the exception that capacity will be limited to 50% in the four New Hampshire counties hardest hit by COVID-19, Rockingham, Hillsborough, Strafford and Merrimack. Other businesses allowed to reopen at 50% capacity are: gyms, indoor events at wedding venues, libraries, museums/art galleries and tourist sightseeing trains. Other sectors that reopened or expanded their capacity/limitations included: entertainment centers, bowling alleys, amateur sports, charitable gaming, funeral homes, outdoor attractions of 10 people or less, and pools.

On June 22nd, day camps resumed operations under New Hampshire's new guidance. Overnight camps reopened on June 28th with additional guidelines that include temperature and symptom screenings on all staff, adults and children, clean and disinfect frequently, and develop COVID-19 training protocols. Performing arts venues, adult day services, amusement parks, arts and music education and movie theaters in New Hampshire reopened June 29th with capacity limitations and other guidelines. Also, on June 29th, hotels and lodgings can operate at full capacity, under social distancing guidelines. They had been operating at 50% capacity.

Under the state's "Safer at Home" guidelines, it requests – but does not require – out-of-state visitors who will be staying in New Hampshire for an extended period of time to self-quarantine for 14 days.

On July 14th, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu released a 54-page plan on reopening schools in the fall. Sununu said the document, which lets schools make decisions for themselves, will be a "road map for school districts across the state to reopen safely." Among the highlights of the plan is for desks to be placed 3-6 feet apart and daily screening of students, staff and visitors. Masks won't be mandated for students when seated in the classroom, but they are recommended, and the plan also encourages schools to develop plans for both in-person and remote learning for those who choose not to return for health or safety reasons. On August 13th, Governor Sununu provided an update on how New Hampshire will respond to coronavirus outbreaks in schools this year. If an outbreak is identified, the governor said schools might transition to a period of remote learning for 14 days. Once the school is deemed safe, it would be allowed to reopen. These decisions will be made at the local level, in consultation with state health officials. As of September 21st, New Hampshire had a total of 19 COVID-19 infections at K-12 schools. As of October 5th, 42 percent of schools were teaching students with a hybrid learning plan while 40 percent of schools were educating students in-person. Another 17 percent are in remote learning plans.

On August 12th, Governor Chris Sununu issued a new executive order that requires people to wear masks at scheduled gatherings of more than 100 people. Schools are not included in the order, though school assemblies might apply. Sununu said the order applies to large religious gatherings as well.

On August 22nd, Governor Sununu announced that, effective immediately, restaurants across the state can all go to 100 percent indoor capacity for dining as long as they continue to follow state reopening guidelines including maintaining 6 feet of distance between parties. While the six northern and western counties have had 100 percent, capacity allowed for months the counties where COVID-19 cases were the highest were limited to 50 percent indoors. Those are restaurants in Hillsborough, Rockingham, Strafford and Merrimack counties.

On October 3rd, New Hampshire released COVID-19 guidelines for the state's ski areas. According to the guidelines, all guests must wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth while they are indoors, in line for the ski lift and on the ski lifts. Guests are not required to wear masks, however, when they are skiing, at least 6 feet apart from others while outdoors or eating and drinking. Family members and those in the same party will be allowed to be within 6 feet of each other, but ski areas are advised not to place strangers together on the same lift. Ski areas are encouraged to keep the windows open on their shuttle buses, if possible. If the windows are unable to be opened, then outside air should be vented inside the bus in order to prevent the recirculation of indoor air.
On October 7th, state health officials told some long-term care facilities to change their reopening phase status because of an increase in cases in their cities. Health officials said the rise in cases means some facilities have to adjust which reopening phase they’re in. Those in Manchester and Nashua should be in phase one, while most everyone else can be in phase two. Cheshire and Coos are the only counties that should be in phase three. The differences in the phases allow most long-term care facilities to relax restrictions in place for indoor visitors, as well as larger group outings.

On October 23rd, New Hampshire released new guidance for indoor hockey and ice sports that includes a requirement that players, coaches, referees and others get tested for COVID-19 before returning to the rink. Governor Sununu shut down indoor hockey and skating for two weeks on October 15th after a jump in COVID-19 cases connected to the activity. Hockey and other indoor ice arena activities resumed in New Hampshire on Friday, October 30th.

Starting on November 7th, anyone dining in a New Hampshire restaurant will be required to provide their name and phone number in an effort to improve contact tracing if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19. Governor Sununu said he doesn’t consider the requirement burdensome, given that diners already provide such information when making reservations.

On November 14th, 2020, Governor Sununu issued Emergency Order #72 extending the Safer At Home guidance and included updated travel guidance from the Division of Public Health Services. Traveler/visitors to AND residents of NH need to self-quarantine for 14 days following the last date of any travel internationally (including to/from Canada); on a cruise ship; or domestically outside of the New England states of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island for non-essential purposes. If the person is asymptomatic and has a negative PCR test on or after day 7 of quarantining, they may shorten or end their quarantine. This 7-day “test out” of travel quarantine option applies ONLY to travel-related quarantine and NOT quarantine due to other types of exposure. On December 8th, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services sent out a press release covering a minor change of the state’s COVID-19 travel guidance. The length of a quarantine has been cut to 10 days from 14.

On November 19th, the governor announced a statewide mask mandate, effective November 20th. Anyone over the age of 5 in a public space, indoors or outdoors, who cannot physically distance from others not in their own household shall wear a mask, according to the emergency order.

On January 15th, Governor Sununu extended a statewide mask mandate and travel guidance for residents as COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations still are on the rise. The rules require face masks or coverings be worn at all times indoors and outdoors where a person can't maintain a distance of at least six feet. Children under 5 years old and people with disabilities and medical conditions would be exempt from the rules. The mandate, which took effect on November 20th, was set to expire on January 15th. Governor Sununu also issued an executive order extending a travel guidance asking residents who travel out of New England to quarantine for 14 days upon their return, or quarantine for seven days upon their return, followed by a negative COVID-19 test.

**New Jersey**

_Governor:_ Phil Murphy (D)

Phase 1 included curbside pickup for non-essential retail businesses. Essential retail businesses were limited to 50% occupancy. Restaurants, cafeterias, bars, etc. that were permitted to operate had to limit occupancy to 10%. June 9th expanded the limit of outdoor gatherings to 100 people, and indoor gatherings to 50 people or 25% capacity.

The state entered Stage 2 of reopening on June 15th, which allowed 50% capacity for in-store shopping of non-essential retail (including those in a mall with exterior entrance), as well as outdoor dining at bars and restaurants with safety protocols. Childcare centers and curbside pickup at libraries also resumed with guidelines.
June 22nd increased the limit for outdoor gatherings to 250 people and indoor gatherings to 100 people or 25% of the building’s capacity. Personal services resumed. Outdoor municipal pools opened at 50% capacity, and outdoor sports activities resumed under guidelines. Outdoor youth summer camps opened July 6th. On July 8th, face masks began being required in outdoor public places where people cannot socially distance. High-risk organized sports (football, soccer, etc.) resumed contact practices and competitions in outdoor settings on July 20th.

Effective Aug. 4th, the limit on indoor gatherings decreased to 25% capacity with no more than 25 people regardless of capacity, down from the 100-person limit. However, weddings, funerals, memorial services, religious services, and political activities were limited to 25% capacity but with a 100-person limit. As of the first week in Sept., gyms, health clubs, amusement and water parks reopened their indoor operations. Gyms/health clubs are limited to 25% occupancy. Indoor dining resumed, and movie theaters and other indoor entertainment businesses opened at 25% capacity, up to a maximum of 150 people. Limits also increased for indoor gatherings that are religious services, political activities, wedding ceremonies, funerals, or memorial services to 25% capacity with a maximum of 150 people, from the current maximum of 100 people. Any other indoor gatherings remain at the limit of 25% capacity with a maximum of 25 people. Indoor premises reopened for health club facilities in hotels, motels, condominiums, cooperatives, corporate offices, and other businesses. On Oct. 13th, medium and high-risk sports resumed in indoor settings under 25% capacity.

Starting Nov. 12, restaurants, bars, clubs, lounges are required to close indoor dining by 10pm (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery may continue past 10pm). Casinos are required to stop serving food/drinks at 10pm. All bar side seating will be prohibited. All interstate games for indoor youth sports are prohibited. On Nov 16th, indoor gatherings had the limit dropped to 10 people. The limit on indoor gatherings at religious services, weddings, funerals and performances is 25% capacity, up to 150 people. Outdoor gatherings were limited to 25 people on Dec. 7th.

Indoor sports resumed on Jan. 2nd with safety protocols in place. The suspension of interstate youth hockey competitions for public and private schools and youth hockey leagues has been extended through at least March 31st.

**New Mexico**

**Governor:** Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)

New Mexico’s reopening began substantively on Saturday May 16th when all retailers and places of worship can open at 25% capacity, a change from the only curbside pick-up rules the previous two weeks. Day usage of state parks and golf courses has been expanded to more parts of the state. The state government has limited public gatherings to 5 people with required 6 feet distancing until May 31st, but there have been localities who have ignored the orders and are fully opening.

June 1st saw dine-in services at restaurants open at 50% capacity. Hair salons, malls, gyms, and most other services were free to open on the same day. Malls are limited to 25% capacity while personal care facilities will be appointment-only scheduling. These openings, referred to as “Phase 1B” of the reopening plan, represent the largest scale movement towards fully reopening. June 15th saw breweries open both indoor and outdoor seating at 50% capacity. This provision did not include bars who are required to remain closed. The governor has said that the daily cases will be closely tracked to determine if a spike will require re-closure of some services.

Phase 2, which included reopening of theatres and casinos, has been put on hold by the governor after a recent increase in cases. The state government has reported that mandated masks and roll backs in the phased reopening will come if the state’s increases persist. That projection came to fruition on Thursday July 9th when Governor Lujan Grisham rolled back indoor dining and seating at restaurants and breweries. A fine of 5,000 dollars a day was instituted to any restaurant that broke the rollbacks. Patio and outdoor seating can remain at 50%. She also announced a delay, and potential cancelation, of fall sports at the
middle school and high school levels. Governor Lujan Grisham announced that public schools can open at 50% while private schools can open at 25%.

August 1st gave distilleries and wineries the same opening guidelines as breweries, while the governor delayed indoor dining for an unspecified period. October 1st saw overnight camping reopening in most state parks. Social distancing of camping parties is encouraged, but not required. Museums and other recreational facilities have begun opening in Albuquerque. The Aquarium’s opening has been delayed after the Governor deemed it a “close-contact facility” that presented to high a risk.

On November 16th, New Mexico returned to a lockdown “stay-at-home” order with the strictest restrictions since the pandemic began. All non-essential businesses are required to close and essential businesses are limited to 25% or 75 people. Restaurants are limited to curbside pick-up or delivery and religious institutions have the same 25% limit as other essential services. This order is for a 2-week period, at which point the counties will enter a 3-tier reopening process similar to the one from the summer.

On December 2nd, New Mexico entered a 3-tiered reopening as they emerged from the two-week lockdown. The 3 phases (Red, Yellow, Green) allow progressively higher capacity limitations on businesses and social gatherings. Red allows 25% capacity of essential retail and outdoor dining. Non-essential retail and indoor dining will remain shut down. Places of worship are capped at 25% while hotels and lodging are permitted 40% of occupancy. The social gathering limit is 5 people. Yellow keeps the 25% capacity limitations on retail, places of worship, and expands the limit to all other businesses. Outdoor dining is lifted to 75% and lodging is lifted to 60%. The social gathering limit is heightened from 5 to 10 people. Green expands all indoor business to 50% except for hotels which are expanded again to 75% of occupancy. The social gathering limit is expanded to 20 people from 10. The gating criteria remain the same as earlier reopening plans. All but one New Mexico county (Catron county) is classified as red as of January 4, 2021.

As of January 27th, seven New Mexico counties improved their COVID-19 restriction metrics and moved into the Yellow tier. The Yellow tier allows businesses to operate with relaxed restrictions, including indoor dining at 25% capacity and higher capacity limits for retail and religious services. To reach the Yellow tier, a county must maintain an average test positivity rate at or below 5% over a 14-day period. 25 counties remain in the Red tier which is indicative of very high positivity rates and risk of infection.

**New York**

**Governor:** Andrew Cuomo (D)

New York has seen major progress in curbing COVID-19 in every region of their state after representing the epicenter of the virus for months. Regions of the state have been progressing through a currently 4-Phase reopening plan as cases continue to decline. As of July 6, every region in the state had entered Phase 3 and the regions with the least COVID-19 spread are beginning to enter stage 4.

Cuomo has introduced criteria that must be met for any region of the state to open further. These guidelines give specific metrics of local virus penetration, under 2 new hospitalizations per 100k citizens, and requires 14-day declines in hospitalizations and hospitalized deaths. In addition to benchmarks in cases and deaths, the criteria require each region to have at least 30% of their ICU and total hospital beds available and 30 tested per 1,000 people. The progress in the state has been steady, with Friday May 22nd representing the first day since March with under 100 deaths from COVID-19.

June saw even better numbers since then with no region having higher than 1.7% positive testing rate. In regions progressing into Phase 4 in early July, the positive test rate has dipped below 1.0%. Cuomo also announced that schools in regions in Phase 4 will open to full in-person learning in the fall. To open schools fully, a region must be in Phase 4 and have a daily infection rate below 5% on a 14-day rolling average.

Phase 2 expands retail to 50% capacity of in-store shoppers and opens vehicle sales with the same restrictions. Hair salons and personal care facilities are permitted to open to both appointment and walk-in customers. If walk-in customers cannot immediately be served, they are not allowed to wait for an
appointment on-site. Phase 2 keeps restaurants at outdoor seating and take-out services only. Offices are permitted to open at limited capacity but work from home is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

Phase 3 primarily expands food services to 50% of indoor capacity and maximum outdoor capacity with 6 feet between tables. Governor Cuomo recently signed an executive order that expanded the crowd limits from 10 to 25 in Phase 3. In all three Phases employees are required to wear acceptable face coverings and maintain distancing from their customers and coworkers as much as possible. On July 1st Governor Cuomo will announce possible tweaks to the indoor dining policy for Phase 3 after seeing spikes in cases in many states across the country.

Phase 4 allows more entertainment venues and media production to begin. The entertainment permitted to reopen are those classified as “low-risk” and include zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and museums. Those that are outdoor are permitted 33% capacity, while those that are outdoor are limited to 25%. Professional sports may resume in Phase 4 without fans in attendance. Film and movie production may resume, and colleges may reopen. Religious gatherings are expanded to 33% capacity and social gatherings with be limited to 50 people rather than 25. Malls, gyms, and movie theatres are some of the industries that are still closed in Phase 4.

July 7th saw the Mid-Hudson Valley region enter Phase 4 of reopening and Long Island scheduled to join them on July 8th. By July 13th, all regions sit in Phase 4 except for New York City which remains in Phase 3. Outdoor bar seating was restricted to included only those locations that served food. This effort to reduce traffic came after over 100 bars and restaurants in New York City were cited for not social distancing and being over capacity between July 24th and 26th.

August 24th marked the first day gyms can reopen in New York allowing a maximum of 33% capacity. In addition to a mask mandate at all times, localities will be required to inspect each gym before opening to ensure proper ventilation and filtration systems. Local authorities will also be allowed to decide if classes will be allowed. New York City pushed their gym reopening date to September 2nd to give more time to health officials to inspect. Museums were also permitted to open at 25% capacity on August 24th.

The state rolled out its schools reopening plan that involved a hybrid model of in-person and online learning to begin the year. It was reported on August 10th that over 300,000 families in New York City, or around 25% of the school population, have opted out of the hybrid model and will be fully online for the fall semester at least. On September 14th, the Mayor announced that 55 school officials had tested positive for Covid-19 since returning to work. Although that is a positive test rate of only 0.32%, Monday September 21st marked the first day that any students returned to the classroom. The phased plan involves unique cases moving to the classroom on Monday, with other elementary students joining them on September 29th. Middle and high school children can return on October 1st, about 3 weeks after the original planned dated was.

Effective 9/30, New York City allowed indoor dining at restaurants with a capacity limit of 25%. This announcement comes after a six-month ban. Although the rest of New York State had been allowed to resume indoor dining in varying capacities since July, NYC has been operating under more restrictive guidelines to mitigate virus spread in the former U.S. epicenter of the pandemic. In addition to the 25% capacity cap, NYC restaurants will also have to conduct temperature checks of all patrons before they enter the restaurant and will be required to register their contact info with the restaurant to facilitate contact tracing.

On October 5th direct enforcement of businesses breaking mask and capacity guidelines was put in place in high-risk areas of New York City. Governor Cuomo released a 3-tier plan to deal with high-risk clusters in the city. Within a cluster, referred to as Red Zone, Houses of Worship will be limited to 25% capacity with a maximum of 10 people. Only essential businesses are permitted to open, and mass gatherings will be prohibited entirely. Schools will move to fully remote and restaurants are limited to take-out only. Orange Zone expands religious capacity to 33% with a 25-person maximum and allows mass gatherings of 10 people indoor and outdoor. More businesses can open, but schools remain remote only. Yellow Zone is the
final tier where religious house capacity is expanded to 50% and mass gatherings move up to 25 people. All businesses can open at limited capacity and dining can occur indoor and outdoor with 4 persons per table. Schools will open in-person in a rigid testing schedule. The week of October 25th saw some neighborhood enforcement loosened as testing rates declined allowing some students in Queens and Brooklyn to return to school. The loosening happened on October 20th, exactly 14 days after the restrictions were set into place. In order for a school in a micro-cluster to reopen the region must be past the 5th day of the increased restrictions and anyone entering the campus must present a negative test.

Governor Cuomo announced that Ski resorts will be permitted to reopen at 50% capacity beginning November 3rd. Movie theatres will also be allowed to reopen on October 23rd in all counties with below a 2% infection rate and no hot spots. These criteria temporarily rule out New York City for at least 2 weeks. Theatres will be required to have assigned seating and will be limited to 25% capacity or 50 people per screen.

November saw the Governor limit the hours business could be open until 10 pm each night. Many Northeast governors also gathered to discuss installing another round of lockdowns as cases rise in region.

After closing New York City schools before Thanksgiving as the city had reached a 3% positive rate, New York City announced a reopening of in-person learning for elementary level children to begin on December 7th. The mayor abandoned the 3% positive testing threshold that was keeping many schools closed in the city. Only those students who originally registered for in-person classes will be permitted to return to school, which will make the number of eligible children around 120,000 out of a total of 1.1 Million students in the city.

On December 7th, Governor Cuomo ordered hospitals across New York to increase bed capacity by 25%, and he warns he’ll curtail indoor dining if hospitalization keeps going up. "If after 5 days a region’s hospital rate has not stabilized, indoor dining will close or be reduced". In New York City, indoor dining would close entirely and in rest of the state, indoor dining would be reduced to 25% capacity. He also warned if hospitalization capacity is projected to hit 90 percent within three weeks for any of New York state’s 10 regions, he will shut everything down entirely, including nonessential business.

On December 11th, Governor Cuomo issued an order suspending indoor dining in New York City for at least two weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions amid increasing cases. Indoor dining ended at 10 p.m. on December 13th, and restaurants are only allowed outdoor seating and takeout for the next 2 weeks.

Additional changes were also made to the metrics that would determine whether regions will be designated Yellow, Orange or Red pandemic zones as part of a statewide "Winter Plan" for managing the spread of the coronavirus during December and January based on hospital capacity. A red zone will be implemented in a region where hospital capacity is within 21 days of reaching 90 percent, even after the cancellation of elective procedures and a 50 percent increase in bed capacity in hospitals in the region. A geographic area will be eligible to enter an Orange Zone if it has a 4 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the last 10 days and it is located in a region that has reached 85 percent hospital capacity. Alternatively, a geographic area may also become an Orange Zone if the State Department of Health determines the area or region’s rate of hospital admissions is unacceptably high and a zone designation is appropriate to control the rate of growth. A geographic area will be eligible to enter a Yellow Zone if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the past 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions.

There was also a change to restrictions in communities in the “red” and “orange” zones. Starting on December 14th, gyms and salons will be able to remain open in orange zones, with gym capacity restricted 25% and weekly COVID-19 testing for salon staff. Under the previous rules, gyms and hair salons were required to shut down in orange zones.

Both Governor Cuomo and New York City Mayor De Blasio urged residents and businesses to brace for a possible second shutdown amid a citywide surge in coronavirus cases. “If we do not change the trajectory, we could very well be headed to shut down of all non-essential businesses”, Governor Cuomo said at his
virus briefing on December 14th. On December 15th, Mayor De Blasio added that he sees another shutdown in the city's future. "It's going to very much resemble what we saw in the spring. My nomination would be right after Christmas, if we implement it with some good luck, we could be out of it in weeks".

On December 18th, The New York State Liquor Authority released updated regulations for outdoor dining and takeout at restaurants. The new regulations take a more stringent approach to monitoring indoor activity at restaurants, including mandating that all takeout orders must be placed remotely by phone or internet, and specifying that customers must stay outside the establishment to pick up takeout orders. Initially, the guidelines also barred outdoor diners from going inside the restaurant for any reason, including to use the bathroom. However, after pushback from local leaders including multiple city politicians, the guidelines were changed to allow bathroom use. The updated regulations also reiterate that outdoor dining structures must have at least two open sides for airflow; otherwise, the structure is categorized as an indoor dining operation and is currently banned from use. Sides are not considered open if they're covered by plastic or "other material restricting airflow," according to the regulations.

On January 14th, Governor Cuomo allowed all restaurants that are impacted by orange zone restrictions to reopen under yellow zone guidelines. The decision came after a ruling in Erie County that allowed orange zone restaurants to open with the yellow zone guidelines. That means parts of Westchester County that had been under those mid-level restrictions since mid-December was allowed to resume indoor dining -- at least temporarily. Areas of Staten Island also have been under orange zone rules since that time, but Cuomo banned indoor dining in the entirety of New York City independent of his cluster zone program. As of January 19th, those restaurants are still closed. The restaurants in the orange zones can now operate under yellow zone rules — including capacity capped at 50 percent and up to four people per table.

On January 27th, Governor Cuomo lifted COVID-19 restrictions in more than a dozen areas that the state previously declared cluster zones, which for months had been subject to extra limits social gatherings and activity at gyms, restaurants and houses of worship. The announcement affected Monroe, Chemung, Erie, Onondaga, and Westchester counties. Meanwhile, dozens of yellow zone restrictions across the state have also been lifted, with the exception of Newburgh, the Bronx and Washington Heights. The decision means the areas that had been in the state-designated color zones will now be subject only to statewide COVID-19 rules and restrictions, such as a 10 p.m. curfew for bars and restaurants and a 33% capacity limit at gyms and fitness centers.

On January 29th, Governor Cuomo announced New York City restaurants can resume indoor dining on February 14th. He also announced he will allow New York City bars and restaurants to reopen their dining rooms at 25% capacity, reversing a citywide ban on indoor service that he put in place on December 11th as the state's COVID-19 rates were on the rise. He also announced a plan to allow wedding receptions beginning March 15th provided they follow certain rules and restrictions, limiting them to no more than 150 guests and requiring everyone attending to be tested for the virus before the event.

North Carolina

Governor: Roy Cooper (D)

Expanding on Phase 1 which broadly opened retail in-store and kept restaurants at pick-up only, on May 22nd, the state moved on to phase 2 of their 3 Phase Plan. Phase 2 allowed personal care facilities and restaurants to open at 50% capacity. Indoor gatherings expanded to 10 people and outdoor to 25 people. Pools, daycare, and day camps highlight the other industries that reopened. These guidelines include standard recommendations like daily screenings of all employees for fevers, as well as working from home whenever possible. Bars, movie theatres, museums, and gyms remained closed under Phase 2. Planet Fitness and other gym chains reopened September 1st, citing a loophole that allows them to open for “medical reasons” despite the Governor’s executive order mandating their closure.

To reopen schools, the state government proposed a 3 Phase system that saw schools fully reopen in person learning in Phase A, have a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning in Phase B, or go fully
remote under Phase C. Governor Cooper announced on July 15th that school districts have the option to enter Phase B or C of his proposed schools reopening plan. Most districts followed Phase B which limits in-person capacity to any level that can maintain 6 feet of social distancing. After a week of in-person schooling at UNC, the Board of Governors returned the students to online schooling after cases clustered around dorms and fraternity houses.

On October 2nd, North Carolina entered Phase 3 to reopen the state. Bars, Theatres, amusement parks, and outdoor venues opened for the first time in 7 months. All the listed sectors permitted 30% capacity and have a 11 pm alcohol curfew. The gathering limits remain the same as in Phases 2. Outdoor venues that seat over 10,000 will only be permitted 7% capacity. Venues without capacity limits are restricted to 7 people per every 1,000 square feet. On November 11th, Governor Cooper extended Phase 3 until at least December 4th. He also reduced the gathering limit to 10, down from 25. On December 1st, Governor Cooper extended phase 3 through December 11th.

On Tuesday, November 17th, Governor Cooper announced a new COVID-19 County Alert System which shows how each of the state's 100 counties is doing in terms of viral spread. The map will be updated every four weeks and will offer specific recommendations on how slow the spread of COVID-19 and bring numbers down. The system uses metrics informed by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and North Carolina’s key metrics to categorize counties into three tiers: Yellow: Significant Community Spread, Orange: Substantial Community Spread, and Red: Critical Community Spread. As of December 14th, North Carolina has more than 80% of counties in the orange or red on the state's coronavirus spread map.

On November 25th, Governor Cooper signed an executive order tightening the existing mask order and now requires masks be worn in any public indoor space, including in gyms when exercising, in all restaurants, unless diners are actively eating or drinking, in all schools, public or private, and on all public and private transportation. The new order also puts more responsibility on retailers to enforce mask use inside their businesses and to limit occupancy. Stores larger than 15,000 square feet must also designate an employee at the store's entrance who is responsible for ensuring customer mask compliance.

On December 11th, Governor Cooper issued a new statewide stay-at-home order. Under the order, unless an activity is considered essential, everyone is required to be home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Businesses, including restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, personal care businesses, most retail stores and more will be required to close at 10 p.m. Alcohol sales are required to stop at 9 p.m. The sale of alcohol cannot resume until 7 a.m. Certain essential activities are exempt from the curfew like going to work, shopping for essential items or seeking medical care. Additional exclusions apply, such as in the construction and manufacturing industries. The restrictions continue through at least January 8th, 2021.

As of January 4th, the Modified Stay at Home Early Closure Order implemented on December 11th is effective unless modified or extended. Certain businesses and facilities are ordered to closed to the public between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. This includes restaurants (with exceptions for take-out and delivery) bars, entertainment, parks, museums and certain retail establishments. On December 21st, Governor Cooper issued an executive order effective December 21st at 5 p.m. to January 29th at 5 p.m. that allows certain permitted sellers including restaurants, hotels, private clubs, private bars and holders of distillery permits to sell mixed beverages-to-go with limitations. These establishments may remain open under the provision of take-out and delivery services.

North Carolina is in Phase III of reopening the state. The modified Stay at Home Early Closure Order is still in place. Under Phase III, Under Executive Order 181 and extended under Executive Order 188, North Carolina remains under restrictions until at least 5 p.m. January 29th. The order implements a modified stay at home order from 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. It requires nighttime closure from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for certain businesses and activities and prohibits the sale and service of alcohol for onsite consumption from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

On January 27th, Governor Cooper and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary announced that North Carolina’s Modified Stay At Home Order, requiring people to be at home
from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., will be extended. Face covering requirements and restrictions on individuals gathering in both indoor and outdoor settings are still in place. Executive Order No. 189, the further extension of the modified stay-at-home order will be in effect through at least Sunday, February 28th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

North Dakota

Governor: Doug Burgum (R)

Under the initial North Dakota Smart Restart plan on May 1st, restaurants reopened at 50% of normal capacity, with 6 ft. of spacing between groups and increased spacing between tables and 10-person table limits. On May 15th, casinos reopened with social distancing procedures in effect.

On May 29th, under the color-coded health guidance system, the ND Smart Restart plan moved to the next phase, out of the yellow, or moderate, risk level, and into the green, or low-risk, level – one level before the blue “new normal” level. The recommendation for capacity in bars and restaurants increased from 50 percent to 75 percent. The recommendation for banquets/weddings increased from 50 percent occupancy up to 250 attendees, to 75 percent occupancy up to 500 attendees. Movie theater capacity increased from 20 percent to 65 percent. Gyms opened with heavy restrictions on fitness class size/attendance, equipment spacing, and use of saunas/jacuzzies. Personal care/beauty facilities must adhere to 6 ft. physical distancing rule, establish check-in/waiting areas that provide physical distancing, clients and employees must wear face masks. Parks are open with some limitations to restrooms and comfort stations, and no multi-unit camping.

On June 1st, local wineries reopened with masks and gloves being worn. Graduation ceremonies could be held using school facilities with proper social distancing, cleaning, and safety precautions. Schools also began hosting summer school, driver’s education and other activities. On June 5th, the state strongly encouraged visitation at long-term care facilities be outdoor by appointment, with appropriate social distancing and personal protective equipment, including masks.

On July 14th, Governor Burgum announced that schools in North Dakota may reopen this fall for face-to-face learning amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic if districts approve and consult with local health officials. School districts also must prepare online learning plans in addition to classroom instruction and a “hybrid” of the two. The state’s guidance allows local school officials to start classes when they chose, either earlier “to bank some time” should an outbreak occur, or later if more time is needed to put a reopening plan in place.

On August 10th, North Dakota Department of Health officials kicked off a campaign to convince residents to wear masks in an effort to reduce spread of the coronavirus. Governor Burgum used his weekly press briefings to give emotional pleas supporting face coverings but will not issue a statewide mask mandate. North Dakota does not plan on joining 34 states in requiring masks, instead emphasizing individual responsibility, local decision-making and a “light touch” by government. On October 7th, Fargo, the largest city in North Dakota, voted not to adopt a mask mandate. Mayor Tim Mahoney presented two proposals and reminded everyone the City of Fargo has a mask directive, but not a mandate. However, on October 19th, using emergency powers, Mayor Mahoney issued a mask mandate within the City of Fargo, making it the first city in North Dakota to have one. Mahoney says several COVID-19 “trends and developments” in Cass County precipitated this mandate.

Effective Friday, October 16th, Governor Burgum updated the ND Smart Restart Guidelines to help reverse the trend and reduce the spread of coronavirus in communities. The ND Smart guidelines were updated to the following risk designations: Critical (red): Non-essential businesses closed. High (orange): 25% occupancy with a cap of 50 people (changed from non-essential businesses closed); encourage businesses to require face coverings. Moderate (yellow): 50% occupancy with a cap of 100 people (down from 250); encourage businesses to require face coverings. Low (green): 75% occupancy with a cap of 200 people (down from 500). New normal (blue): operate as usual. Additionally, the Governor also announced that 16
counties are being moved into the high-risk level, which recommends reduced occupancy rather than business closures. Nine counties are moving from low risk to moderate risk, and two are moving from the new normal to low risk. No county has been put in the highest, "critical risk" category since Burgum unveiled the level system in May, which now entails required business closures under the new guidelines.

As of October 23rd, many nursing homes in North Dakota are halting indoor family visitation after a federal agency stepped in to end a month-long negotiation period in which the state tried to get an exception on newly imposed national rules. The change comes as more than half of the state's COVID-19 deaths have occurred in nursing homes, and as cases continue to climb rapidly across the state. On November 9th, Governor Burgum announced that all North Dakota counties will move into the "high-risk" (orange) level for COVID-19. The new guidance went into effect at 8 a.m. on November 10th. Restaurants and bars at the "high-risk" level are limited to 25 percent of their rated room capacities while social distancing. Also, individual family groups or party sizes should be limited to one household or fewer than 10 people.

After months of resisting ordering the people of North Dakota to wear masks and limit the size of gatherings, on November 16th, North Dakota's governor issued a statewide mask mandate as coronavirus cases continue to surge in the state. Face coverings are now required in indoor business and indoor public settings, as well as outdoor public settings where physical distancing isn't possible. The order includes exceptions for children under age 5, individuals with a medical or mental health condition or disability that makes it unreasonable to wear a mask, and religious services.

Governor Burgum also signed an executive order that limits all bars and restaurants to 50 percent capacity — not to exceed 150 customers. Food service establishments must be closed to in-person service between 10 p.m. and 4 p.m. but take-out, curbside and delivery options are allowed to operate. The governor also suspended all high school winter sports and other extracurricular K-12 school activities until December 14th. The pause in activities is aimed at keeping cases low enough to allow schools to stay open for in-person learning with masks and physical distancing. The order allows practices to resume for high school winter sports, community and club sports for youth and adults starting November 30th. The governor also warned North Dakotans to try to limit gatherings to their immediate household group during the holiday season.

On December 9th, Governor Burgum announced that the mask measure will stay in place until at least January 18th, while occupancy restrictions on restaurants, bars and event venues will last until January 8th. The governor also announced that high school sports competitions will be allowed to resume December 14th. He credited North Dakotans with saving winter sports seasons by taking proper precautions and bringing COVID-19 case counts down over the last month. By starting up sports again, Burgum said the state is accepting some added risk that the virus will spread among teams and spectators.

On January 5th, Governor Burgum announced plans to ease restrictions on the number of people who gather in restaurants, bars and event venues, citing a decrease in active COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus. Food service establishments have been operating at up to 50% of licensed capacity, not to exceed 150 people. Starting Friday, January 8th, those businesses will be allowed to operate at 65% capacity, not to exceed 200 people. Dance floors must still remain closed, and service can only be provided to seated customers. Patrons must wear masks except when eating or drinking, and staff must wear masks at all times, according to the release. In addition, banquet, ballroom and event venues, which have been limited to 25% capacity, will be able to start operating at 50%. These new restrictions are in effect through 8 a.m. on January 29th. The statewide mask mandate expires on January 18th.

Also, on January 8th, the statewide COVID-19 risk level was lowered from high risk to moderate risk as business capacity restrictions were eased. The drop from orange to yellow on the state's five-level color-coded system was the first reduction since early November, when Governor Burgum moved all counties to orange amid a spike in coronavirus cases.
Effective January 18th, the mask mandate, which had been in place since November 14th, expired. Local governments and school districts are still free to enact mandates, and "we still strongly support mask-wearing." Business capacity restrictions that went into effect on November 16th have gradually been eased.

Governor Burgum in late December lifted an order that restricted bars and restaurants to takeout, curbside and delivery in the late-night and early morning hours. On January 8th, the governor increased allowable capacity at businesses, and on January 15th he announced that the capacity limits have become recommendations rather than requirements as of January 18th.

On January 29th, North Dakota’s statewide risk level moved to "low" from the “moderate” yellow risk level it had been in. The low risk level increased the recommended occupancy limit for bars, restaurants and other food service establishments from 65% of licensed facility capacity up to 200 patrons, to 80% of capacity up to 300 patrons, with social distancing and face coverings strongly recommended or required. Banquet, ballrooms and event venues are recommended at 75% of room capacity, up from 50% under yellow.

Ohio

Governor: Mike DeWine (R)

Ohio’s economy was primarily open as of May 21st. All retail and general offices opened on May 12th, as well as the state’s sizable manufacturing sector. On May 15th, the governor announced that personal care locations, like hair and nail salons, were free to open, in addition to the outdoor seating at bars and restaurants.

By May 21st, restaurants were able to utilize their indoor dining space. Parties who eat out were limited to 10 people and the tables needed to be 6 ft apart. Bars were permitted to open as well, assuming they could allow all patrons to remain 6 feet apart. June 1st saw further reopening including banquet halls, day care, and catering. Limits on receptions for weddings and other events became 300 patrons and employees wearing masks. Restaurants were limited to 75% capacity.

June 10th saw another massive expansion into almost all recreation and entertainment venues. These include but are not limited to, ice skating, movie theatres, museums, laser tag, and zoos – all with guidelines and safety measures. Casinos and amusement parks had their first day of reopening on June 19th. Nursing homes allowed visitors beginning July 20th and a mask mandate went into place on July 23rd.

Governor DeWine signed an order on September 23rd allowing restaurants, bars, and catering halls to fully reopen assuming they can meet the 6 feet distancing rules. Tables are limited to 10 people at restaurants and the catering facilities are limited to 300 people. Dancing and gaming areas at bars can open assuming social distancing can be followed.

On Nov. 13th, a health order was signed to enforce mask-wearing in retail locations in compliance with the current statewide mask mandate. It requires facial coverings when in a retail store with additional provisions such as each store needs to post signage outlining face-covering requirements. On Nov. 17th, a revised health order was signed to limit mass gatherings, which is limited to 10 people. Wedding receptions, funerals, and other events at banquet facilities can have no socializing or activities in open congregate areas and guests must be seated at all times with masks except when eating or drinking. An order was signed on Nov. 19th encouraging people to stay home for the following 21 days. It includes a curfew from 10pm to 5am except if a person is engaged in work or essential activity. This order was extended on Dec. 10th to last until Jan. 2nd.

Ohio’s Director of Health amends an order on December 10th to require all persons to stay at home during specified hours unless engaged in work or essential activities. All individuals residing within the State of Ohio are ordered to stay at a place of residence including single family homes, apartments, condominiums dormitory living units, hotels, motels, shared rental units, and shelters during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Essential activities that can be performed under this order are not limited to: seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional. Some other
activities that are considered essential are obtaining necessary supplies, groceries and food, and products necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation.

Ohio Department of Health’s Director has made a second amended order on December 30th. This Order is effective at 12:01 p.m. on December 31st, 2020 and remains in full force and effect until 12:01 p.m. on January 23rd, 2021. The same stay-at-home order between the hours of 10:00p.m. and 5:00a.m. from the previously amended order is still in effect. It has been stated that unless you need to go to work or obtain necessary food, medical care or social services, you must stay home at night. Other essential activities are for work and for the purposes of taking care of others such as a family member, family friend or pet.

Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Health will extend Ohio’s 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew until January 30th, 2021. The curfew does not apply to those going to and from work, those who have an emergency, or those who need medical care. The curfew is not intended to stop anyone from getting groceries or going to the pharmacy. Picking up carry-out or a drive-thru meal and ordering for delivery is permitted, but serving food and drink within an establishment must cease at 10:00 p.m.

Governor Mike DeWine and the director of the Ohio Department of Health signed a modified curfew order on Wednesday evening January 27th rolling back the 10 p.m. curfew to 11 p.m. beginning Thursday, January 28th and continuing through noon on February 11th, 2021. Restrictions on residents’ after-hours movements from their homes will shift from 10 p.m.–5 a.m. to 11 p.m.–5 a.m. for the next two weeks. The modified curfew order does not mandate the closing of any businesses or services; however, restaurants are limited to pickup, carryout and/or delivery services between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Oklahoma

Governor: Kevin Stitt (R)

The first phase of the Open Up and Recover Safely Plan began on April 24th, which allowed personal care/beauty facilities and state parks to reopen. On May 1st, restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, gyms, and sporting venues reopened statewide with strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols. Also, on May 1st, houses of worship reopened for in-person meetings or worship with every other row/pew open and adherence to other physical distancing protocols. Tattoo parlors also reopened by appointment only and with strict distancing and sanitation protocols in place. An executive order was in effect until May 13th requiring people arriving on flights from the New York tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut), Washington state, California or Louisiana to quarantine for 14 days.

Phase 2 began on May 15th, which allowed nonessential travel to resume, bars to reopen at limited capacity and organized sporting events, funerals and weddings to take place with appropriate social distancing guidelines in place. Children’s nursery areas in places of worship reopened as well.

Phase 3 began on June 1st and is Oklahoma’s final step in the reopening plan. It allows for schools, churches, and all businesses to reopen, unrestricted staffing at work sites, and summer camps to open. Visits to Senior Care Facilities and Hospitals are still prohibited under phase 3 guidelines. However, a modified plan for senior care facilities is now in effect enabling a facility to reopen for visitation if the following occurs: if it has not had any new COVID-19 cases for 28 days, if it has hired an infection prevention specialist and if it has adequate staffing, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. On September 9th, The Oklahoma State Department (OSDH) released revised guidance for long-term care facilities to help clarify variations between phases two and three for visitation and communal activities. The revision aims to balance the need to protect residents from COVID-19 and ensure healthy social and emotional connections with family and friends during the ongoing pandemic. Major changes include establishing directions for various types of visitation beyond end-of-life care, as well as requiring facilities to allow virtual visitation at least twice a week. Facilities use the state’s color-coded COVID-19 dashboard to track whether the county they are located in has COVID-19 case rates that are high, moderate, low or the “new normal.”
On July 23rd, the State Board of Education adopted a set of recommendations for school attendance and mask use during the pandemic. Using the Oklahoma State Department of Health’s color-coding system and the SDE recommendations: Green, Yellow, Orange 1, Orange 2, and Red. The current color is yellow, allowing for a regular school schedule with face coverings required while riding a school bus, increased cleaning of rooms, and masks for teachers and staff. Orange 2 and Red both offer guidance on transitioning to distance learning. The Oklahoma state Board of Education voted against requiring the "Return to Learn Oklahoma" plan to be enacted by districts, but instead voted to make it a suggestion. As of September 1st, more than 65% of students in Oklahoma’s 50 largest school districts are being given the option of returning to in-person learning. Less than half of the 50 largest school districts in Oklahoma require face masks be worn by teachers, staff, and students inside schools and classrooms. On October 2nd, the Oklahoma State School Boards Association released new color-coded maps, which show state schools heading in the right direction. Oklahoma is down from nine to six counties in the red, with many school districts cautiously optimistic about moving forward with in-person learning options. State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister announced that 78% of Oklahoma school districts now have some form of mask mandate, up from 64% in September.

As of November 18th, restaurants and bars are required to space tables out 6 feet and close by 11pm each night. The Governor announced this new restriction in addition to a mask mandate while indoors if you are a government employee. He publicly implored residents to wear a mask and reduce travel during the holidays but stopped short of a public mask mandate.

On November 30th, the city of Norman put new restrictions in place that include bars and fitness centers’ capacity reduced to 50%, gatherings limited to 50 people, all of whom will be required to wear masks, and new protocols for sporting events.

On December 10th, Governor Stitt issued a new executive order in Oklahoma, which includes limiting capacity at some public gatherings. Public gatherings are limited to 50% capacity unless the local health department has granted an exception. Examples of public gatherings include weddings, funerals and holiday parties at event centers. This doesn’t apply to churches, but Stitt said he wants church leaders to continue to innovate in their ways to prevent the spread of the virus. The order also extends the rules for bars and restaurants, requiring tables to be spaced 6 feet apart and that bars and restaurants close at 11 p.m. each night except for drive-thru or takeout services. The order also keeps requiring masks for state employees inside state buildings. Attendance at youth indoor sporting events will be limited to four spectators per participant or 50% of the building’s capacity, whichever is lower.

As of January 5th, there was still no statewide mask mandate. While there is no statewide mask mandate in place, several cities in Oklahoma, including Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Norman, Edmond and more, have implemented mask mandates. Oklahoma City’s mask order was set to expire on January 22nd and Tulsa’s was set to expire on January 31st, but both have been extended. Oklahoma City’s mask mandate has been extended through March 5th and Tulsa’s through April 30th.

On January 14th, Governor Stitt walked back restrictions on bars and restaurants, one day after a judge hammered the state in a written order for a lack of evidence that the restrictions effectively slowed the spread of COVID-19 in the first place. In an amended executive order, Stitt removed the requirement for bars and restaurants to close in person service at 11 p.m. These restrictions originally took effect November 19th, but Stitt and the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission lost the ability to enforce the order in December after a judge granted six bar owners a restraining order against the governor and his curfew. The requirement for bars and restaurants to space groups 6 feet apart or separate tables with properly sanitized glass or plexiglass remains in the renewed executive order.
Oregon

**Governor:** Kate Brown (D)

Governor Brown’s plan had counties apply for procession through her 3 Phase system. Governor Brown announced on June 11th that there would be a one-week delay in the reopening after a recent spike in cases. The delay was lifted on June 19th when Multnomah County entered Phase 1. Multnomah was the last county to be granted permission to enter Phase 1. It joined Clackamas, and Washington county as the only 3 counties that sit in Phase 1 as of October 6th. July 30th saw Umatilla county moved to a stay-at-home status and Morrow county move back to Phase 1. All other counties have been approved and sit in Phase 2.

Phase 1 allows restaurants to fully open with tables at least 6 feet apart and to close on-site consumption by 10 pm. All personal care locations are at appointment only, and gyms have a maximum capacity that always allows 6 feet between all patrons. All personal care appointments must be contacted beforehand to verify they do not have any COVID symptoms. Contact sports within gyms remain banned, as do the pools and showers. On September 4th, all Phase 1 counties could open pools and playgrounds.

Phase 2 expands operating times for restaurants to midnight but keeps all distancing guidelines from Phase 1. Higher risk activities like pools, movie theatres, bowling alleys, and recreational sports are permitted to open. Faith and civic based gatherings are permitted to expand their groups beyond the 25-person limit given in Phase 1.

Phase 3 allows for mass gatherings such as major concerts or sporting events with live audiences. This phase will require a reliable COVID-19 treatment or vaccine.

July 1st saw a statewide mask requirement come into effect for all public indoor settings, including grocery stores, retail stores, public transportation, gyms, and restaurants. On July 13th, the statewide mask policy was expanded, requiring that most Oregonians wear masks in outdoor situations when they cannot stay six feet from other people. On July 20th, Oregon announced they are allowing visitation at long term care facilities, if those visits take place outside and do not occur at homes where there have been COVID-19 outbreaks.

In late October, Oregon announced that a loosening of online school mandates allowing more than 130,000 students the option to return to the classroom. New rules mandate county wide cases be below 50 per 100,000 people, as well as a county positivity rate of under 5%.

November 11th marked the first day that 5 counties in Oregon were placed on a “Two-Week Pause” to stem the spread. The pause reduced capacity in indoor restaurants to 50 people with parties no larger than 6 people. That 6-person restriction extends to all social gatherings as well. All businesses that can work from home are now required to do so, and any indoor business must limit capacity to 50 people or 25%, whichever is smaller. These new restrictions are set to expire on November 25th except for a statewide mask mandate for all Oregonians 5 years or older which will be ongoing.

November 18th began another two-week freeze, this time statewide. Groceries, Retail, and pharmacies are limited to 75% capacity, while restaurants are limited to only takeout and delivery. Non-essential businesses like recreation, gyms, and entertainment facilities are required to close until further notice. Houses of worship are restricted to a maximum of 25 people. The social gatherings limit is reduced down to 6 people from no more than 2 households.

On 12/2, Governor Brown announced that 25 of the state’s 36 counties are at extreme risk of COVID transmission. As a result, these counties face the most stringent of the newest restrictions on businesses and social gatherings that were announced back on November 18th. The only change is that restaurants are permitted to provide outdoor dining in addition to take-out and pick up. Indoor dining is still restricted.
Gyms are also permitted to provide outdoor fitness activity. Both restaurants and gyms will be limited to capacity caps of 50 people in outdoor settings.

On 12/17, Governor Brown extended Oregon’s state of emergency of emergency until at least March of 2021. The state of emergency gives the governor authority to issue executive orders to protect public safety and requires renewal every 60 days. This move allows the extension of the state’s four-tiered risk level assessment by county which guides local restrictions on gatherings and businesses.

On December 23rd, Governor Brown directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to implement several new policy initiatives to put more schools back on track to return students to in-person instruction by February 15th, 2021. She directed the Oregon Health Authority to partner with schools to access on-site, rapid testing as a safeguard to quickly address symptomatic individuals and those with potential exposure to COVID-19 to protect students and staff and to minimize quarantine times in public schools that resume in-person instruction. Moving forward, the decision to resume in-person instruction must be made locally, district by district, school by school.

Oregon continues to be under a four-tiered risk level assessment by county. Counties will remain at these risk levels from Jan. 1 to Jan. 14. Red counties are at extreme risk, orange counties are at high risk, yellow counties are at moderate risk and green counties are at lower risk. For counties that are considered extreme risk, social and at-home gatherings with people from outside your household will be limited to a maximum of six people, with a recommended limit of two households. Restaurants, bars and other eating and drinking establishments will be limited to a maximum of 50 people for outdoor dining only, with only six people per table. Indoor recreation, fitness and entertainment establishments, including gyms, will remain closed. Counties that are at high risk recommend limiting social gatherings to a maximum of six people and a limit of two households. Restaurants and other eating and drinking establishments have indoor dining available and not to exceed 25% and limited to a maximum of 50 people. Indoor recreation, fitness and entertainment establishments are at maximum 25% capacity or at 50 people total, whichever is smaller. For counties that are at moderate risk, social gatherings should be limited to 8 people and a maximum of two households. Indoor dining is available at 50% capacity or a maximum of 100 people. Indoor recreation, fitness and entertainment establishments are at a maximum 50% capacity or at 100 people total, whichever is smaller. Counties that are at lower risk recommend limiting social gatherings to a maximum 50% capacity or at 100 people total, whichever is smaller. Counties that are at lower risk recommend limiting social gatherings to a maximum of 10 people and a limit of 4 households. Indoor dining is available at 50% capacity and other indoor activities such as recreation, fitness and entertainment establishments are limited to a maximum of 50% capacity.

Governor Brown and the Oregon Health Authority announced updated county risk levels, effective as of January 15, 2021. The Oregon Health Authority reassigns risk level designations to counties every two weeks, based on the latest data on COVID-19. A total of 26 Oregon counties will be under the strictest COVID-19 restrictions for two weeks, beginning Friday, Jan. 15.

**Pennsylvania**

**Governor:** Tom Wolff (D)

On September 14th, a federal judge ruled that Governor Wolf’s restrictions on gatherings and business capacities were unconstitutional and eliminated the state’s ability to enforce them. The Governor is appealing the ruling, but there is not a known timeline on a ruling. The suit did not cover the mask mandate or the additional restrictions that localities like Philadelphia have put on their districts. As of September 21st, any restrictions on gatherings or on business capacity are not enforceable by the state government.

The Governor of Pennsylvania had instituted a Red-Yellow-Green phasing plan for his state. Red was the beginning phase of full shutdown; yellow is the intermediate phase of partial reopening and Green is a full reopening with an emphasis on safe health procedures. June 26th marked every county in the state in the
Green Phase apart from Lebanon County which stalled in Yellow. July 3rd was set to see fitness centers and indoor dining in Philadelphia, but this progression was delayed after a recent spike in cases. July 20th was the first day the whole state moved backwards in its reopening, regressing restrictions back to a similar position as Yellow Phase. The Yellow phase allows all in-person retail to be opened but encourages consumers to utilize delivery or curbside pick-up. Restaurants are to remain in pick-up/delivery only. All businesses that can telework are required to do so. Industries that cannot telework, like childcare, are free to reopen.

Green phase essentially opens all businesses at 75% capacity and encourages telework for all those who can. This includes restaurants who can open indoor and outdoor seating with 6 feet between tables and staff wearing masks. Amusement parks like Hershey Park have announced their plans to open over July 4th weekend with 6 feet social distancing and mask requirements indoors. These expansions were delayed on July 20th when Governor Wolf imposed new statewide restrictions on bars, restaurants, and indoor gatherings. Indoor dining capacity at restaurants and capacity at bars was cut to 25%. On-premise alcohol consumption is limited to meals only. The limits on indoor gatherings have also been cut down to 25 people and those office workers who can telework are newly encouraged to do so. The operation of all nightclubs is prohibited. restaurant capacity expanded to 50% of indoor tables on September 23rd. Philadelphia is the exception where indoor dining has been limited to 25% since September 8th. The state legislature proposed a bill that would open all restaurants at 100% which the Governor vetoed citing rising cases.

Pennsylvania has been grappling with school plans. Decisions on how much online learning there will be, safety measures, and the availability of extracurriculars has been delegated to individual counties. Many counties in Philadelphia have opted for online learning for the semester, while most suburban counties are going in person to begin. For more information about school reopening by state, click the link featured at the top of this week’s update, “TVB Back to School Summary Table by State.”

On November 20th, the PA health secretary announced new travel restrictions that went into effect immediately. Under the new rules, anyone who visits from out of state will be required to have a negative test within 72 hours before arrival. If they cannot get a test or choose not to have one, they will have to quarantine for a period of 14 days. Residents of Pennsylvania will also be required to have a negative test within 72 hours of returning from out of state. The order does not apply to people who commute to and from another state for work.

On December 10th, Governor Wolf announced additional statewide virus mitigation measures that went into effect on 12/12 and remain valid until 1/4/2021. Under the new restrictions, all in person dining and alcohol sales at bars and restaurants, wineries, distilleries, etc. are prohibited. Private catered events are also prohibited. Outdoor dining/carry-out and pick-up are permitted for restaurants and bars. Indoor gatherings and events of more than 10 people are prohibited although religious institutions are exempt. Outdoor gatherings of more than 50 people are also prohibited under the new rules. All in person businesses serving the public may operate at a limit of 50% capacity. Gyms and fitness facilities are prohibited from indoor operation.

On December 12th under Governor Wolf, additional statewide temporary mitigations went into effect. They will remain in place until January 4th at 8am. All in-person businesses in the entertainment industry serving the public within a building or defined indoor areas including but not limited to, theaters, concert venues, museums, movie theaters, arcades, casinos and all other similar entertainment, recreational and social facilities are prohibited from operation. It is strongly advised to not have individuals in their homes who are not part of their household unless those individuals are needed to provided activities essential for the health such as education, childcare or eldercare of household members, essential home repairs, deliveries of food or medicine or providing home health services.

As of January 4th, time limited orders that were previously implemented have expired. Mitigation efforts will revert to mitigation orders in place. Some of those mitigations efforts that will continue to be implemented
are All in-person businesses may operate at 75% occupancy. Self-certified restaurants may open at 50% capacity for indoor dining; Restaurants that have not self-certified are at 25% capacity for indoor dining. A self-certified business means that they have certified online through pa.gov and they are taking every precaution, following all health guidelines, and keeping safety a top priority. Indoor recreation and health facilities open at 50% occupancy with appointments strongly encouraged; fitness facilities directed to prioritize outdoor activities. All entertainment centers are open at 50% occupancy.

After the time limited orders which expired on January 4th, the state's mitigation efforts reverted to the following under Governor Wolf. Telework must continue unless impossible. Masks will be required in businesses and all in-person businesses may operate at 75% occupancy. Self-certified restaurants may open at 50% capacity for indoor dining and restaurants that have not self-certified will be at 25% capacity for indoor dining. On-premises alcohol consumption will be prohibited unless part of a meal; cocktails-to-go and carryout beverages will be allowed. Serving alcohol for on-site consumption must end at 11 p.m., and all alcoholic beverages must be removed from patrons by midnight. Personal care services, including hair salons and barbershops, can open at 50% occupancy and by appointment only. Indoor recreation and health facilities, such as gyms and spas, can open at 50% occupancy with appointments strongly encouraged; fitness facilities will be directed to prioritize outdoor activities. All entertainment venues, including casinos, theaters and museums, may open at 50% occupancy.

**Rhode Island**

**Governor:** Gina Raimondo (D)

Under “Reopening RI,” the governor has allowed almost all business to open with capacity limitations. These limitations initially included no more than 5 people at a religious service, no more than 10 people at a funeral service. May 11th and 18th saw Phase 1 open outdoor restaurant dining and non-essential retail. Gatherings remained limited to 5 people and all employees who can work from home are encouraged to continue to do so. Offices could accept visitors for tasks like picking up equipment.

May 22nd took Rhode Island into Phase 2 of their reopening plan which opened Houses of worship at 25% capacity and expanded capacity for retail and restaurants. Restaurants opened indoor dining at 50% capacity for the first time. Offices could expand to 33% capacity but work from home was encouraged when possible. June 30th brought Rhode Island into Phase 3 of their reopening expanding the capacity of all businesses that were operating in Phase 2. Indoor social gatherings have been expanded to 25 people, except when catering is present then the limit goes up to 50. Outdoor gatherings on the other hand are limited to 50 or 100 with catering.

July 8th saw nursing homes reopen to visitors which the precaution that it could be reversed if cases increase in those facilities. The governor also announced stricter enforcement of Covid guidelines. The first violation will see a fine or a compliance order, and the second will enact a fine and/or a shut done until the appropriate precautions are proven. University of Rhode Island also announced a reduction of on-campus housing by 30%. On Friday July 17th, all school districts were required to submit their reopening plans for approval from the state. The governor has expressed a goal of full in person learning by August 31st. If cities have less than 100 positive cases per 100,000 residents in the previous week, schools will be allowed to continue full in-person learning.

The Governor stalled reopening on July 29th keeping Rhode Island in Phase 3 until at least the end of August. That deadline extended once again to the end of October. She also lowered the limit on social gatherings from 25 to 15. November 1st saw that limit return to 25 people. Increased cases lead to more restrictions at the beginning of October. These included a mandatory closing time of 11 pm for restaurants and a requirement that visitors from 34 states prove they tested positive within the previous 2 weeks when they check into hotels or Airbnb's. Cases rising in late October led the Governor to warn citizens that a
possible regression into Phase 2 is imminent if cases don’t subside. This will include a limit back to the 15-person gathering maximum, as well as further business restrictions.

November 30th marked the first day of a 2-week lockdown of the state. The statewide order closed non-essential businesses like theatres and gyms while reducing the capacity of retail and houses of worship to 25%. Schools for kids up to 8 years old will remain open and superintendents have the option to switch high schools to almost exclusively remote. Manufacturing, Construction, and Personal care are singled out as industries allowed to stay open if they adhere to new safety precautions.

On 12/10, Governor Raimondo extended the state’s lockdown or “pause” through 12/21, which amounts to an additional week. After 12/21, the state will ease some restrictions while keeping others in place. Gyms and fitness centers will be permitted to reopen with capacity restrictions on 12/21. Restaurants can also expand indoor dining from 35% to 50% capacity, but only one household per table. Mask usage will still be mandated statewide.

Governor Raimondo announced that Rhode Island will exit its “pause” on Monday 12/21, and slowly reopen some of the business that have been closed around the state for the previous three weeks. This means that gyms, casinos, indoor recreation, and restaurants will be able to increase their capacity to 50% indoors. Social gathering limits will stay to within a single household and through the Christmas holidays. Indoor restaurant dining is also limited to within one household.

New guidance has taken effect beginning December 21st. The restrictions were eased beginning Monday, December 21st though many of the same, familiar restrictions will remain in place. Rhode Island will slowly dial up activity while continuing to maintain necessary social and commercial restrictions. This stay-at-home advisory results in early closures of all restaurants, bars, gyms, recreational facilities and personal services. Gym, sports facilities and indoor recreation will have a restriction of 1 person per 150 sq. ft., customers/members must be separated by fourteen feet indoors and six feet outdoors and early closures. The capacity limit for indoor and outdoor venues which includes performing arts venues, movie theaters and houses of worship as of December 21st is 25 percent of normal capacity with a maximum of 125 people. Indoor dining capacity for restaurant have been raised from 33 percent to 50 percent. The social gathering size remains one household.

Governor Raimondo issued Executive Order 21-07 on January 20th, 2021 that amends the following parts of Executive Order 20-108 until February 18th, 2021. Moderate and lower risk sports may resume practices, competitions, scrimmages and games. Higher risk sports (wrestling and boxing, for example) are still prohibited. All sports teams and groups are prohibited from participating in tournaments, matches, games, competitions, practices, etc. with out-of-state teams or groups, except for professional and intercollegiate athletic programs. Phase III protocols for reopening are still in effect. Houses of worship, restaurants, bars, gyms, entertainment venues and retailers may all operate with reduced capacity. Bar areas are closed, and operations must cease by 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and by 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Residents should limit social interactions to their own household, and while dining indoors at a restaurant. While dining outdoors, members of two households may be seated together. Catered events may resume under phase three guidelines (non-residential setting with a licensed caterer on site). Attendance is restricted to fifteen or fewer guests indoors and fifty or fewer guests outdoors.

South Carolina

**Governor:** Henry McMaster (R)

The following types of businesses could reopen as of April 20th: department stores, sporting goods stores, book, music, shoe, and craft stores, jewelry stores, floral shops, and luggage and leather goods stores. On May 18th barbershops, hair salons, gyms, and pools could reopen if they followed specific guidelines, including keeping people six feet apart when possible, installing physical barriers at workstations, and putting up signs to remind employees and customers of safety and hygiene practices. Adult and youth sports leagues were allowed to begin practicing starting May 30th, if they complied with state guidelines. On May 22nd, the following attraction facilities could partially reopen zoos, museums, aquariums, planetariums,
historic sites, waterparks, amusement park rides, go-kart tracks, and miniature golf courses. On June 12th, bowling alleys could reopen, capacity limits on retailers were lifted.

Gov. Henry McMaster announced the state’s guidelines for restaurants will become requirements, effective Aug. 3rd. The order will require employees and patrons to wear masks at dining establishments, prohibit customers from gathering around bar areas, and limit dine-in to 50% occupancy. McMaster also announced that large gathering venues and events like movie theaters, festivals, auditoriums, and concerts will be able to reopen with mask requirements for attendees. Masks are required in all state buildings starting on Aug. 5th. State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced masks are required in South Carolina public school facilities for staff and students in grades 2-12.

Beginning September, the governor announced outdoor visitation is permitted at nursing homes that can meet the criteria outlined in the state’s guidance document.

Gov. Henry McMaster issued an executive order lifting capacity limits on restaurants, effective Oct. 2nd. Individuals are still required to wear face coverings at restaurants, and the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages after 11 p.m. is still prohibited.

**South Dakota**

**Governor:** Kristi Noem (R)

On March 23rd, the governor issued Executive Order 2020-08, which recommended that businesses suspend or modify practices in order to meet CDC recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19. The order directed businesses to "continue offering or consider offering business models that do not involve public gatherings, including takeout, delivery, drive-through, curb-side service, off-site services, [or] social distancing models." The order expired on May 2nd. On April 28th, the governor released a "Back to Normal" plan that provided guidance and recommendations for businesses and individuals, including advice on sanitation and limiting capacity.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association board voted unanimously to allow sports practices to begin on Aug. 3rd with the first competition on Aug. 11th. Masks are not required at competitions, but spectators are recommended to wear them.

The governor decreased the eligibility requirements for the state’s Small Business and Healthcare Provider Relief Program on Oct. 22nd from a 25% reduction in business to a 15% reduction in business. The maximum grant limit was increased from $100,000 to $500,000.

On Friday, Dec. 18th, Gov. Kristi Noem (R) issued an order extending the statewide COVID-19 emergency through June 30, 2021.

**Tennessee**

**Governor:** Bill Lee (R)

On Apr. 20th the governor released guidelines for the reopening of businesses in the state. The guidelines apply to 89 of the state’s counties. Any county with its own health department is responsible for developing its own reopening plan. The guidelines allow for the reopening of restaurants at 50% capacity on Apr. 27th, and retail stores could also reopen with limited capacity on April 29th. The state released guidelines for these businesses that included social distancing, sanitization procedures, and recommendations to have employees wear cloth face coverings. On May 22nd, the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group issued updated guidelines for restaurants and retails stores to lift capacity restrictions, as well as new guidelines enabling attractions and large venues to reopen with social distancing and capacity restrictions (six Tennessee counties, including Shelby and Knox counties, are following county-specific plans and won’t be impacted by these changes). According to Yelp's website, between March 1st and July 10th, 288 restaurants had permanently closed in Tennessee.

Gov. Bill Lee released guidelines for reopening schools. The recommendations cover testing and contact tracing, immunizations, and resources necessary for returning students to classrooms or teaching remotely.
On Jul. 31st, Gov. Bill Lee (R) issued Executive Order 55, which removes restrictions on contact sports, including football and soccer, so long as organizations and schools follow safety guidelines. The order also extended an earlier executive order that permitted local governments to determine mask requirements.

Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn said on Aug. 12th that the Tennessee Department of Education was encouraging school districts to mandate face coverings for middle and high school students.

On Aug. 17th, the governor signed a bill protecting businesses, schools, and nursing homes from lawsuits related to damages caused by COVID-19. It makes it harder for parties to sue those entities for damages caused by COVID-19 but does not apply to cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

On Sep. 29th, Gov. Bill Lee (R) released an executive order eliminating coronavirus restrictions on businesses and gatherings in 89 of the state's 95 counties. Six counties, including Shelby, operate according to rules made by their respective health departments.

On Dec. 4th, Gov. Bill Lee (R) signed an order directing the Tennessee National Guard to provide support for hospitals. The order allows members of the National Guard to assist in COVID-19 diagnostic testing, perform nursing functions, and operate ambulances.

On Sunday, Dec. 20th, Gov. Bill Lee (R) issued an executive order limiting gatherings to 10 people.

On Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, the governor extended the state's coronavirus emergency through Feb. 27th.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19th, the governor extended and modified an order that restricts spectators at school sporting events through Feb. 27th. The new order prohibits bands, cheerleaders, and dance teams from attending games.

On Thursday, Jan. 28th, the governor announced he would lift restrictions on spectators and participants at indoor and outdoor school sporting events beginning Feb. 1st. On that day, cheerleaders will be permitted to perform at games, and the general public will be allowed to attend them.

Texas

**Governor:** Greg Abbott (R)

Retail stores, malls, restaurants, and theaters could reopen on May 1st at 25% max occupancy. Libraries and museums were also allowed to open. Texas entered the second phase of its reopening plan on May 8th, allowing more businesses, including barbershops, nail salons, and swimming pools, to reopen at 25% capacity. Gyms, office spaces, and non-essential manufacturing businesses could reopen at or below 25% capacity on May 18th. Texas entered Phase 3 of its reopening plan on June 3rd. Most businesses were permitted to expand operations to 50%, and amusement parks were also permitted to open at 50% capacity.

On July 2nd, the governor issued a statewide mandate requiring people living in counties with more than 20 coronavirus cases to wear a mask in indoor and outdoor settings when social distancing isn't possible. In response to a rise in coronavirus cases, Gov. Greg Abbott announced he was re-imposing some statewide restrictions on businesses, including ordering all bars to close by 12:00 p.m. that day. Restaurants, which are currently allowed to operate at 75% capacity, will only be allowed to operate at 50% capacity beginning on Jun. 29th. The new order also requires rafting and tubing businesses to close and says local authorities must approve outdoor gatherings of more than 100 people. Restaurants had been permitted to operate at 75% capacity as of June 12th. According to Yelp's website, between March 1st and July 10th, 1,342 restaurants had permanently closed in Texas.

On Jul. 7th, Education Commissioner Mike Morath released guidance for reopening schools in the fall. Parents will be able to choose between on-campus and distance learning options. Masks will be required in school buildings.

On Jul. 17th, Texas education officials extended the time schools can offer online-only instruction before resuming in-person classes in the new academic year.
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced on Aug. 6th it was lifting restrictions on nursing and long-term care facilities to allow for limited visitations if certain requirements are met. At nursing facilities, visits are restricted to outdoor settings. For long-term care facilities, indoor and outdoor visitations are permitted, but physical contact between patients and visitors is prohibited. Visitations can only happen at both kinds of facilities if there have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days.

At an Aug. 13 news conference, the governor said he would need to see an increase in hospital capacity and the state’s positivity rate fall below 10% for a “sustained period of time” before he would consider reopening bars.

On August 20th, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said the Texas Education Agency and the Department of State Health will soon begin to publish COVID-19 case numbers at schools. School districts will be required to report confirmed cases to the state within a day.

On Aug. 25th, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) adopted an emergency rule allowing bars and breweries to reopen as restaurants if they serve food from trucks or other vendors. Establishments must also set aside a dedicated area for preparing and storing food.

On Sep. 7th, the governor signed an executive order extending the statewide COVID-19 disaster declaration. Abbott first enacted the declaration in March and has subsequently extended it several times. The disaster declaration allows the state to access and direct resources to combat the pandemic.

On Sep. 17th, the governor announced that several types of businesses, including retail stores, restaurants, and office buildings in 19 out of the state’s 22 hospital regions will be permitted to expand operating capacity to 75% on Sep. 21st. Those businesses are currently limited to 50% capacity. Abbott did not say when bars would be allowed to reopen.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7th, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) announced on Facebook that county judges can allow bars and similar establishments to reopen at 50% capacity in regions with low COVID-19 hospitalization rates beginning Oct. 14th. Bars in counties that opt in will be required to keep patrons seated while indoors. Additionally, businesses like amusement parks and movie theaters in low hospitalization counties will be permitted to reopen at 75% capacity on Oct. 14th.

On Oct. 30th, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) joined a lawsuit challenging El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego’s (D) order closing non-essential businesses and imposing a curfew. The lawsuit, filed in El Paso County’s 34th Judicial District Court by ten El Paso restaurants, claims that Samaniego’s order illegally usurps the governor’s authority. In his motion to intervene, Paxton argues the state "has an intrinsic right to enact, interpret, and enforce its own laws," including "authority to sue to redress any violations of" public rights. Paxton further argues, "Judge Samaniego has no authority under [state law] to preempt or supersede" Gov. Greg Abbott’s (R) orders. In a statement to the press, Samaniego said, "We received a lawsuit, however until such time that a Court orders otherwise, my order still stands."

On Dec. 3rd, COVID-19 hospitalizations in North Texas exceeded Gov. Greg Abbott’s (R) threshold that would trigger new restrictions on businesses. Restaurants and gyms will have to reduce capacity to 50% and bars whose sales of alcohol make up more than 51% of revenue will need to close.

On Jan. 5th, Trauma Service Area Q, which includes the city of Houston and is one of several regions used by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services to assess COVID-19 spread, passed the seven-day hospitalization threshold requiring stricter restrictions. The restrictions, laid out in Gov. Greg Abbott’s (R) Oct. 7th executive order, include a ban on elective surgeries and indoor service at bars and a reduction to 50% capacity for most businesses. COVID-19 patients will need to comprise less than 15% of total hospital capacity in the region for seven consecutive days to return to the previous phase.
Utah

Governor: Spencer Cox (R) Effective 1/4/21

On May 1st, the governor issued an executive order placing the state under the "moderate risk" protocols of the Utah Leads Together Plan effective at midnight. The moderate risk designation allows gyms, salons, and other personal care businesses to reopen and restaurants to resume dine-in services modified to follow hygiene standards and social distancing guidelines.

On May 14th, the governor announced that much of Utah, with the exception of some cities and counties, will move from the orange phase of the reopening plan to the yellow phase. Salt Lake City, West Valley City, Wasatch County, Summit County, and Grand County will remain in the orange phase. Under the yellow phase, limits on gatherings will rise from 20 to 50 people, but face coverings must be worn in public and individuals should stay 6 feet from others when outside the home. The plan also calls for relaxing restrictions on team sports, so long as social distancing guidelines are followed, and participants are checked for symptoms. According to the plan, all businesses can reopen under the yellow phase. Businesses that do open must follow social distancing guidelines and industry-specific requirements, such as limiting tables in restaurants to groups of 10 and symptom checking all employees who work in gyms.

Utah’s reopening plan places additional restrictions on high-risk individuals across all phases of reopening. The plan defines high-risk individuals as people with underlying medical conditions, people over the age of 65, and people living in long-term care facilities.

On Jul. 20th, the Utah Department of Health issued an order mandating the use of face coverings in all K-12 schools. The order includes exemptions related to eating and drinking and medical conditions.

The governor issued an executive order on August 18th allowing cities and counties to adopt mask mandates without approval from the Utah Department of Health. The order also revised the terminology used in the state’s reopening plan. Instead of calling the color-coded reopening phases “risk levels,” they are now called “levels of restriction.”

On Sep. 2nd, the governor announced that Salt Lake City would move from the orange to the yellow phase of reopening. Under the yellow phase, private gatherings of up to 50 people are permitted. The orange phase limited gatherings to 20 people or fewer.

On Sep. 11th, the governor issued an executive order moving Box Elder County and Carbon County into the green phase—the least restrictive of Utah’s four reopening phases. Thirteen counties are in green, while the remaining counties are in yellow.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13th, the governor announced the state was replacing the color-coded reopening guidance system with a three-tiered system focused on transmission rates. Counties will be classified as high, moderate, or low depending on COVID-19 spread, and will only be allowed to move to a lower level after 14 days.

Leaders in the Utah Legislature announced on Oct. 23rd, that daily, rapid testing for lawmakers and staffers would occur when the 2021 session begins in January. Plexiglass dividers will also be installed between desks on the floor.

On Sunday, Nov. 8th, the governor announced a series of new coronavirus restrictions, including a statewide mask mandate and a pause on public school extracurricular activities, including athletic events. The new order also limits casual social gatherings to those within the same household through Nov. 23rd. The order took effect Monday, Nov. 9th.

On Nov. 9th, new orders went into place that go through Nov. 23rd, but may be extended. The entire state is now under a mask mandate, casual social gatherings must be household-only, and extracurricular activities (including athletic and intramural events) are on hold for the duration of the order. Bars and restaurants are prohibited to serve alcohol after 10p.m. Additionally, beginning as soon as possible, but no later than Jan. 1st, students enrolled at public/private institutions of higher education, who either live on campus or attend at least 1 in-person class per week will be required to get a weekly COVID-19 test.
On Thursday, Nov. 19th, Gov. Gary Herbert (R) announced he would remove language prohibiting social gatherings between different households from an order he planned to issue before Thanksgiving.

On Thursday, Dec. 17th, Gov. Gary Herbert (R) announced that students in public schools who test negative after coming into contact with someone with COVID-19 do not need to quarantine. Previously, any contact with a COVID-19 positive person required a 10-14-day quarantine. Herbert also announced he was ending the statewide ban on alcohol sales after 10 p.m.

**Vermont**

**Governor:** Phil Scott (R)

Vermont had opened retail business at 25% capacity and with all patrons wearing masks. May 23rd saw religious institutions, restaurants, and lodging industries all partially reopen. Restaurants were required to maintain 10 feet between tables, and no more than two households with parties of 10 or less could dine-in. June 26th was the first day restaurants were able to expand from 25% capacity to 50% capacity for outdoor and indoor seating. Lodging businesses opened at 50% capacity or 25 guests, with only one party in the elevator at a time and no more than groups of 10 in any party. Religious institutions operated at 25% capacity with facial coverings encouraged. September 23rd expanded restaurant, bar and hotel capacity to 100% with 6 feet of distancing between tables.

Barbershops and beauty salons opened at 25% capacity and with guidelines and appointment-only operations strongly encouraged. June saw gatherings expanded to 150 people, overnight summer camps opening, and all entertainment or recreational businesses opening at the matching 25% capacity of the rest of the economy.

A mid-June spike in cases in Winooski county made the state government require a 14-day quarantine or 7-day quarantine with a negative test for all residents who travel out-of-state. Governor Scott announced that despite rising cases nationally, Vermont’s declining case load is allowing the state to continue reopening. He also expanded the quarantine free travel zones to include many east coast states and Washington D.C. The state government declared its intention for fully in-person schooling for the fall after continued declines in case.

September 18th saw new guidelines for bars and restaurants which could open at 100% capacity with 6 feet of social distancing. This approval also extended to hotels and lodging facilities, although visitors from most states were required to follow a 14-day quarantine. September 26th saw school sports begin again with practice and competition between schools.

An advisory was announced on Nov. 6th that strongly recommends all social gatherings be limited to 10 people. On Nov. 10th, a 14-day quarantine for all non-essential travel began along with an increase in compliance checks and expanded testing.

New mitigation measures started on Nov. 14th. Restaurants must stop in-person dining at 10pm. Bars and social clubs are closed for in-person services, but curbside and delivery is allowed. Public and private multi-household social gatherings are prohibited. All businesses will reinstitute telework policies to the maximum extent possible. Youth and adult recreational sports activities are suspended. Lastly, interstate competitions for public and private schools and youth hockey became suspended until Dec. 31st. The state of emergency has been extended through Dec. 15th.

Governor Scott announced a small temporary modification for the period from December 23rd – January 2nd. One household may gather with one other trusted household, there is a maximum of two households getting together during this period. It is strongly recommended by the Health Department that everyone who participates in a multi-household gathering be tested seven days after the gathering. If a Vermont household gathers with a trusted household from outside of Vermont, all participants from both households must quarantine for seven days followed by a negative test (or a 14-day quarantine) after the gathering.

Governor Scott extended until Jan. 15 tighter coronavirus-related restrictions. Social gatherings between multiple households are prohibited, immediate family members who reside in different households can still
get together. Bars are closed and restaurants can continue to operate at 50% capacity but can now only seat one household per table and must close in-person dining by 10 p.m.

As of January 19th, Governor Scott has decided to extend the State of Emergency Executive Order for the State of Vermont through Monday, February 15th, 2021. The restrictions that were extended until January 15th are to be upheld unless it is amended or extended at a later time.

**Virginia**

**Governor:** Ralph Northam (D)

Virginia was very regionally divided in their opening phases. Although most of the state entered a phase 1 reopening on May 15th, the governor prevented many parts of Northern Virginia from doing the same. However, on May 29th the entire state was in Phase 1 of reopening. Many parts of Southern Virginia moved to Phase 2 shortly after that. Phase 1 included loose restrictions on many industries including 50% limits on retail and restaurants with outdoor seating. The government also limited gyms to only outdoor classes with no more than 10 people per session. Salons, tattoo parlors, and hairdressers was appointment only with face masks required on every client. Churches and other religious facilities were allowed to operate at 50% capacity.

Governor Northam announced a statewide move into Phase 3 on July 1st. This fully opened retail, restaurants, beaches, childcare, and state parks at full capacity. In addition, capacity at fitness centers and movie theatres was expanded to 75% and 50% capacity, respectively. Face coverings would still be required indoors, and overnight camps remained closed. Gatherings expanded to a limit of 250 people, but teleworking remained strongly encouraged.

On July 25th, Gov. Northam announced that he was considering many options to curb a potential outbreak including bring the state back into Phase 2, altering the current gathering limit, or changing the guidelines of Phase 3. Labor Day marked the first day of statewide attractions like the Museum of Science opening since March. All patrons over the age of 10 are required to wear a mask. On July 28th, the Hampton Roads region, including Virginia Beach, was further restricted via executive order. The order limited indoor dining to 50% and reduced the public gathering limit to 50 people. Bars and restaurants were prevented from serving alcohol past 10 PM.

Sunday November 15th marked the first day that new restrictions were imposed in Virginia. All in-person gatherings are limited to 25 people, down from the current 250-person limit. This includes private & public outdoor and indoor gatherings. The mask mandate was expanded to require anyone 5 years and older to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces. Additionally, an on-site alcohol curfew was put into place. On-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol is prohibited after 10 p.m. in any restaurant, dining establishment, brewery and more, and the establishments must close by midnight.

Dec. 14th began the stay-at-home order in which Virginians must remain in their residence between 12am and 5am. The universal mask requirement was expanded, requiring all Virginians aged five and older to wear face coverings in indoor settings shared with others and when outdoors within six feet of another person. Additionally, the limit on all social gatherings decreased from 25 people to 10, regardless if it’s indoors or outdoors, with a few exceptions. Dining establishments must continue to prohibit the on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol after 10pm, and close by midnight.

Virginia is currently following the Phase Three guidelines. The Executive Order 72 is effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, December 14th and will remain in effect until January 31st at 11:59 p.m. Virginians must be home from 12:00 am until 5:00 a.m. Individuals may leave their residence to go to or from work, exercise, to take care of others, to get food, or to seek emergency services. Activities in fitness and exercise facilities such as gym are permitted to operate while complying with social distancing requirements. Patrons, members, and guests who are not family members in the same household must remain at least ten feet apart during all activities. The total number of spectators in entertainment facilities cannot exceed 30 percent of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy. The Order requires closure of all dining and congregation
areas between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently-
contacted surfaces must be conducted every 60 minutes during operation and tabletops must be cleaned in
between patrons.

Governor Northam announced he has extended Executive Order 72 on January 27th which outlines current
measures intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The order was set to expire on January 31st, 2021.
It has been extended through February 28th, 2021. The measures that have been in effect since December
14th will continue to stay in effect until further notice or until there is another extension or amendment.

Washington State

Governor: Jay Inslee (D)

Like many states with strong urban centers, Washington’s reopening is occurring regionally within the state.
The “Safe Start” initiative is a 4-phase plan that moves each county through the process independently. As
counties move through 3-weeks in each phase without significant increases in cases, they may apply to
move onto the next phase. Progression into Phase 4 has been delayed as of June 26th after Washington’s
case load has increased rapidly.

Phase 2 opens most businesses at 30% capacity with religious institutions limited to 25% and restaurants
expanded further to 50% indoor and outdoor seating. In every industry, employers are required to provide
their employees with PPE and frequent opportunities for sanitizing. Phase 3 expands the capacity of the
businesses operating in Phase 2. Most are increased to 50%, with sports leagues being limited to 50 people
at any gathering regardless of capacity totals. Restaurants are expanded to 75% and bars can open for the
first time at 25%. Other new openings in Phase 3 include Government buildings like libraries and museums,
as well as movie theatres and pools at 50%.

The state has counties in each of the first 3 phases with the majority moving through Phase 2. Currently,
Phase 1 has 5 counties (2 of which are in a “modified Phase 1”), Phase 2 has 17 counties and represents
most of the state, and Phase 3 has the remaining 17 counties. All progression into the next phase has been
delayed until further notice and an order that requires face masks in public went into effect June 26th.

The whole state was put on an indefinite pause on July 28th after the Governor made a state-wide
announcement. The pause also added new restrictions on restaurants including alcohol sales ending at 10
PM, and table size reduced to maximum 5 people with only 50% total capacity. That pause was amended
on August 6th when a phased plan was unveiled to allow long term care facilities to have visitors for the first
time since Covid broke out. The plan first allows visitors when no staff or residents have tested positive
within 28 days and stops immediately when there is a single positive in a facility. Phase 1 allows
compassionate care and window visits. Phase 2 has indoor visits if outdoor visits cannot be accommodated,
and Phase 3 encourages outdoor visits but lifts restrictions on indoor. In all 3 phases masks are required.

October 7th saw the first moves by the state to reopen theatres. Each venue’s capacity is contingent on
what Phase their county is in. The limits vary between 25% up to 85% of full capacity. Libraries saw similar
allowances with capacity going up to 100% in the counties with the least transmission. Restaurants had
their alcohol service extended from 10 pm to 11 and the table sizes increase to 6 people for counties in
Phase 2 and 8 people for counties in Phase 3.

Other minor allowances were made that included the partial reopening of organized sports, open houses for
real estate agents, and wedding receptions of 50 people maximum for counties in Phase 3. October 23rd will
see Cinemark and AMC open many theatres across the state. Strict sanitizing protocols will be enforced, as
well as limited capacity and the availability of private showings.

Washington enters a new shutdown the week of November 16th. All indoor dining is prohibited beginning
the 18th and social gatherings must be outdoors and limited to 5 people from outside the home. Grocery
stores, religious services, and retail venues will now be limited to 25% capacity. All non-essential
businesses including gyms, zoos, aquariums, museums and movie theatres will be closed for the duration of the shutdown which will last at least 4 weeks.

On Nov. 25th, Gov. Jay Inslee (D) announced he was strengthening existing requirements for non-urgent medical and dental procedures. The amended order includes requirements related to the increased use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing, and social distancing.

On Dec. 2nd, the governor issued an order clarifying that religious organizations can hold outdoor gatherings with up to 200 people, so long as social distancing is followed, and participants wear face coverings.

On Dec. 4th, the governor issued an order that adds vaccine carriers to the list of commercial drivers exempt from commercial driver hour regulations.

On Dec. 8th, the governor announced he was extending current COVID-19 restrictions, which include a prohibition on indoor dining and gyms, through Jan. 4th. The restrictions also limit outdoor gatherings to five people and prohibit indoor gatherings with people outside of a person’s household unless they have quarantined for a week and received a negative COVID-19 test.

On December 30th, Governor Inslee announced that he was extending restrictions on the Stay-Safe – Stay Healthy proclamation in place across Washington closing down indoor dining at bars and restaurants, shutting down gyms and capping occupancy at retail and grocery stores at 25 percent through January 11th. These restrictions were originally set to expire on Monday January 4th. Fitness facilities and gyms are closed for indoor operations. The table size for outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of 5 people. The restrictions also limit gatherings to members of one's own household, unless people quarantined for two weeks before the event, or quarantined for seven days and received a negative test less than 48 hours before.

Governor Inslee announced a new Healthy Washington plan, effective January 11th. All regions will start in Phase 1 of the 2-phase plan. Phase 1 closely resembles restrictions currently in place. In Phase 1, indoor social gatherings at private residences are prohibited, and outdoor social gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people. Restaurants and bars must shutter indoor service. Outdoor dining is permitted, but no more than six people can be seated at a table and no more than individuals from two households. Outdoor dining must close by 11 p.m. Grocery stores, retail stores, places of worship and personal care businesses, such as hair salons, are among places that must restrict occupancy to 25 percent.

The plan Governor Inslee announced last week on January 11th called Healthy Washington is still in effect. The state Department of Health (DOH) will promote regions based on whether they hit four key metrics. The DOH will examine data every Friday to determine if each region can move forward on the following Monday. Metrics used will include: a 10% decreasing trend in case rates during the previous two-week period, a 10% decrease in COVID-19 hospital admission rates during the previous 14-day period; an ICU occupancy rate that's less than 90%, and a test positivity rate of less than 10%.

Governor Inslee announced a new change for the Healthy Washington plan. Under the new changes, the metrics themselves will remain the same and regions will only be required to meet three of the four public health metrics to progress to Phase 2. The original roadmap required regions to meet all four. The governor also announced that the Department of Health’s timeline for region’s evaluation will change. Beginning next week, regions metrics will be evaluated every two weeks instead of every week.

Washington, DC

Mayor: Muriel Bowser (D)

Phase 1 of reopening began May 29. Under this phase, athletic fields, gated parks, dog parks, tennis courts, and skate parks reopened. A limit of 10 people in groups or in contact sports was set in place. Nonessential businesses could offer pickup/delivery only. Restaurants, taverns & nightclubs that already serve food could begin offering outdoor dining. Barbershops and hair salons could open by appointment-only.
Phase 2 of reopening began June 22nd. This allowed for gatherings of 50 people, in-store retail shopping at 50% and places of worship to resume at 50% capacity. Operations of other personal services resumed, such as tanning, tattoos, skin services etc. Restaurants resumed indoor dining/drinking at 50% capacity, which does not include outdoor patrons. Fitness establishments opened with a limit of 5 people per 1,000 square feet. Recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys or skating rinks, opened at 50%. With specific sector rules, childcare centers, museums, the National Zoo, indoor services at libraries (50% capacity), colleges, certain open houses, outdoor pools, camps/aftercare activities (no more than 10 participants), and playgrounds also opened/resumed. On July 22nd, the mask mandate was expanded, requiring residents to wear masks whenever they are outside their home, with a few “common allowable exceptions.”

To help slow the virus spread, phase 2 regulations were updated with new adjustments, which went into effect on Nov. 25th. The limit for outdoor gatherings decreased to 25 people. Indoor gatherings, including inside the home, are limited to 10 people. Restaurants can stay open until midnight, but alcohol sales, service and consumption are prohibited after 10pm. Houses of worship have a reduced indoor occupancy of 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is lower. Non-essential, non-retail businesses are strongly encouraged to continue telework. High-contact sports are prohibited. The capacity of indoor dining at restaurants decreased to 25% on Dec. 14th.

On Dec. 17th, phase 2 limits on large gatherings were modified to confirm 25% occupancy caps for constitutionally protected, recreational, and commercial activity. A few days later, the Mayor put a Holiday pause on various activities starting Dec. 23rd. Some activities paused during this time were indoor dining, indoor services, any group indoor activities, and more. Additionally, the state of emergency and public health emergency had been extended through March 31, 2021.

The Dec. 23rd pause on various Phase 2 activities ended on Jan. 22nd. This allowed restaurants to reopen indoor dining again at 25% capacity or no more than 250 people. Additionally, museums reopened with capacity guidelines. Some DC Government services still remain paused.

**West Virginia**

**Governor:** Jim Justice (R)

Hair and nail salons, barbershops, and other personal care businesses could reopen beginning May 4th. Outdoor dining at restaurants with physical distancing restrictions would also be allowed. Churches and funerals could also resume with a limited gathering size and personal protective equipment. Gyms and health clubs could reopen on May 18th at or below 40% capacity, and keep equipment separated to allow for at least six feet of space between people. Other restrictions include keeping showers, locker rooms, swimming pools, and basketball courts closed and limiting the size of group classes.

On July 6th, the governor issued an executive order requiring everyone over the age of nine to wear a face covering in indoor places when social distancing isn’t possible.

Effective July 14th, the statewide limit on gatherings decreased from 100 people to 25. Bars in Monongalia County will also be closed for 10 days, and can reopen Monday, August 3rd.

Gov. Jim Justice released reopening guidance for public schools. Justice set a target reopening date of September 8th and counties were required to submit their reopening plans by August 14th. The governor announced on August 12th that he would prohibit nursing home visitations, effective at midnight, except for emergencies and end-of-life situations.

The governor announced on August 19th that bars in Monongalia County can reopen on August 31st. Justice closed bars in that county on July 13th. Bars that reopen will be prohibited from offering live entertainment or dancing on dance floors.

On Aug. 24th, the governor rescinded a ban on nursing home visitations in 53 counties. He banned nursing home visitations statewide on Aug. 12 following a spate of outbreaks. Nursing home visitations will remain prohibited in Monroe and Logan counties, which have more coronavirus cases.
On Aug. 26th, the governor announced students would be permitted to participate in marching bands and cheerleading activities at football games this fall.

On Aug. 31st, the governor announced that student athletes in counties with between 10 and 24.9 cases per 100,000 could begin playing sports immediately if they test negative for coronavirus. Currently, three counties are in that range, which the state designates as “orange” in its color-coded risk assessment system.

On Sep. 2nd, the governor closed bars in Monongalia County, two days after allowing them to reopen. He first closed bars in Monongalia in July following a spike in coronavirus cases in that area. Justice did not provide a timeline for when bars can reopen.

On Sep. 15th, the governor announced he was adding a new color—gold—to the color-coding system that determines how schools can reopen. Counties with between 10 and 14.9 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people will be classified as gold. While in-person learning is allowed in gold counties, there are limits on gatherings and sports travel.

On Monday, Oct. 5th, Gov. Jim Justice (R) issued an executive order allowing live outdoor music performances to resume so long as crowds are restricted to 25% capacity or 250 individuals, whichever is less. Indoor live music performances which are streamed across the internet without crowds are permitted to resume. On Friday, Oct. 9th, the governor announced that bars in Morgantown, where West Virginia University is located, can reopen on Oct. 13th. Justice ordered bars closed in the area on Sep. 2nd.

The governor announced on Oct. 22nd the distribution of $25 million in CARES Act funding to help individuals pay utility bills. Public Service Districts will distribute the money to utility customers with unpaid utility bills from March 1-July 31 as a result of coronavirus-related economic hardship.

On Nov. 30th, Gov. Jim Justice (R) announced he had asked hospitals to reevaluate the surge plans they created as part of the state’s reopening plan and consider reducing the number of elective surgeries being performed.

Public and private schools were allowed to reopen from Thanksgiving closures starting Dec. 3rd. Gov. Jim Justice ordered schools closed from Thanksgiving through Dec. 3rd to allow a seven day period between holiday gatherings and in-person instruction. Each Saturday, the Department of Health evaluates transmission rates to determine whether in-person, hybrid, or remote-only instruction is allowed in each county.

On Wednesday, Dec. 30th, Gov. Jim Justice announced that all elementary and middle schools would reopen to full-time, in-person instruction beginning Jan. 19th. Justice also announced that most high schools would reopen unless they are located in counties the Department of Health and Human Resources classified as red.

Starting Jan. 19th, all public and private pre-K, elementary, and middle schools were required to resume full-time in-person or hybrid (at least two in-person days every week) instruction, regardless of their county’s transmission rates. High schools are still required to close if they are located in counties the Department of Health and Human Resources classifies as red in the County Alert System map.

**Wisconsin**

**Governor:** Tony Evers (D)

On May 13th, Wisconsin’s republican legislatures successfully sued the governor for overreaching with his emergency powers and canceled the extended stay-at-home order. All government action to halt COVID now must be a joint effort between the legislature and the governor, but no progress has been made.

As a result, Wisconsin has seen the state divided starkly by county amid this sudden reopening. Dane County moved to Phase 2 of their reopening plan that allows 50% capacity of all restaurants, retail, gyms, and religious institutions. Increasing cases in late June lead Dane county to stay at Phase 2 until cases begin to decline. Other counties are seeing each individual business making decisions for itself. Reporting
has seen bars whose employees where masks and keep patrons safely apart, while other venues have resumed operations indistinguishably from 12 months ago. Officially, Wisconsin currently allows any business outside of the 3 major counties to operate in whichever way it sees safe and fit. Mid-July saw mask mandates instituted in Racine, Green Bay, Superior, Madison and Milwaukee. Though a state-wide mandate is resisted by state officials.

Wisconsin is experiencing record daily caseloads as universities across the state have reopened. This increase has caused Dodge County to revert to Phase 1 of their local reopening plan. All businesses are limited to 25% capacity and gatherings, indoor and outdoor, are limited to 10 people.

Milwaukee public schools announced a phase-base plan to reintegrate students into in person learning. The first 30 or 45 days beginning on August 17th were fully online after which students alternate two days in school and three online at home. Once the system meets various health metrics, the system will go in-person 5 days a week. Madison, the other large public-school system in the state, has announce a similar plan of “hybrid” learning where students rotate between remote and in-person learning. August and September have seen smaller districts follow the lead of Milwaukee and Madison to implement virtual learning to begin the year.

On Dec. 3rd, Gov. Tony Evers (D) announced restaurants and small businesses would receive up to $45 million in aid through the We’re All in for Restaurants program. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporations, which administer the program, will use tax records to identify businesses eligible for the grants.

Governor Evers issued an Executive Order 94 signed on November 10th which outlines actions residents of Wisconsin should take to protect others from COVID-19 is still in effect. All individuals should stay home as much as possible and only make trips when necessary, such as to go to work, pick up groceries, or refill prescriptions. All individuals should avoid gatherings of any size between individuals who are not members of the same living unit or household, to the extent possible. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals who are not members of the same living unit or household. A face covering should be worn in compliance with Governor Evers' Emergency Order #1, issued September 22nd, 2020. The Emergency Order #1 is still in effect requiring face coverings if indoors or in an enclosed space and if another person who is not a member of the individual's household is present. A face covering is not required while eating or drinking, obtaining services that requires temporary removal of the face covering, when actively speaking to an audience while remaining 6 feet from other individuals, and when necessary to confirm an individual’s identity.

On January 19th, 2021, Governor Evers issued Executive Order 104, which extended the public health emergency related to COVID-19 for an additional 60 days. Governor Evers also issued Emergency Order 1 which requires every individual over the age of five to wear a face covering when (a) the individual is indoors or in an enclosed space, other than at a private residence; and (b) another person or persons who are not members of individual’s household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space, with some exceptions. Face coverings are strongly recommended in all other settings, including outdoors when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing. Emergency Order 1 will expire on March 20th, 2021.

**Wyoming**

**Governor:** Mark Gordon (R)

Wyoming has been one of the best positioned states to reopen despite the virus. Their low case count and dispersed population allowed the governor to begin reopening in early May. Outpatient health care has resumed. Restrictions were lifted on most businesses while encouraging people to stay at home. Restaurants are free to open with 6 feet between tables and party size limited to 6. Bars were also given permission to reopen with proper social distancing on May 15th. Public gatherings have been expanded to allow 25 people, but large events like concerts and sporting events remain banned. Movie theatres and smaller performance venues can reopen and are required to allow patrons to maintain social distancing.
Almost all restrictions expired by May 31st, at which point Wyoming moved to almost the same restrictions as before Covid-19 for day-to-day businesses.

Recently, Natrona County announced that staff and students in its public schools would be required to wear masks this school year. The governor also presented his “Smart Start” guidelines that, among other advisories, required all districts to submit their operation plans for approval by August 3rd. All districts plans are pending approval as of August 4th. Wyoming County has implemented an infrared system in high schools that can detect a student with a temperature and pull them from class. Elementary and middle schools will subject students to temperature checks at “no touch stations” each day. There will not be mask mandates in class unless they are in group work.

Starting Nov. 24th, indoor gatherings are limited to 25 people if social distancing isn’t possible. If social distancing is possible, then the limit is 25% capacity up to 100 people. The limit on outdoor gatherings is capped at 50% capacity up to 250 people.

New restrictions are effective Dec. 9th, including a statewide indoor mask requirement and a 10-person limit on gatherings when social distancing isn’t possible. Bars and restaurants are required to close nightly at 10 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 2nd, Gov. Mark Gordon announced he was easing coronavirus restrictions effective Jan. 9th. Bars and restaurants are now permitted to resume serving alcohol between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Gyms are also permitted to hold fitness classes with up to 25 people, up from 10, under the former restrictions.

On Jan. 26th, the governor eased some coronavirus restrictions; the capacity limit for indoor gatherings rose to 25% or 250 people, while the limit for outdoor gatherings rose to 500. Previously, indoor gatherings had been limited to 25% capacity or 100 people, while outdoor gatherings had been limited to 50% capacity or 250 people.