Moving Forward in the Wake of Coronavirus

Open for Business: Status of U.S. States (Updated: November 18, 2020)

- Currently, regions of the country are in various stages of either reopening or rolling back earlier openings as a result of rising virus cases. For the latest state specific information, click on the links below.

The states open for business list will be updated weekly. Included are:

  - Summary of state’s overall status
  - Detailed overview of each state reopening, pause, or rollback

- Major updates this week can be found in Alaska, California, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, 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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Individual state listings by status:

**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.

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 approached 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 through the end of November.

**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 10/1, 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.

**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.

**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 and extends the length of time between changes to assess how they affect the trajectory of the disease. 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, 94.1% of California’s population was placed under the most restrictive tier (Tier 1) of the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy.” There are 28 counties that have been moved into Tier 1; 9 that moved back to Tier 2, and 2 counties back to Tier 3. The face covering guidance has also been strengthened by requiring masks to be worn whenever an individual is outside their home, with limited exceptions.

**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.

Ahead of the winter ski season, Colorado’s ski resorts are preparing to open for business in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many resorts are requiring skiers to make online reservations in advance of their trips for the ski lifts, for parking and a number of them are eliminating same day ski lift tickets. A number of
resorts are also limiting the number of season-pass and daily tickets they sell to keep people physically distant. Visitors in nearly all cases, will be required to wear face masks on ski lift lines, on chairlifts, gondolas, while passing through high traffic areas of the ski mountains and all indoor spaces. The only exceptions that will be made are for eating and drinking.

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.

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. Connecticut’s state of emergency was set to expire Sept. 9th but has been extended through Feb. 9th, 2021.

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
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, massage 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 remains at 30% through phase 2. The limit on indoor gatherings increased to 250 people. Childcare reopened and summer camps resumed with restrictions. Recreational sports tournaments restarted on June 20th, and 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 is also no longer allowed.

A Sept. 4th order required businesses to more strictly enforce face coverings among employees. It also states that customers are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings at all times except when eating or drinking. In exercise facilities, face coverings are required when a person is not engaged in vigorous physical activity. Bars in beach communities reopened on Sept. 4th for food service with significant safety precautions. Reservations are required for bar service, and food must be ordered.

On October 30th, the state of emergency was extended for another 30 days. On Nov. 5th, the governor removed additional restrictions at bars in Delaware beach communities.

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 September 4th, Governor DeSantis moved Palm Beach County into Phase 2 of reopening, leaving just Miami-Dade County mostly following Phase 1 guidelines which were put in place back in May. The majority of the state moved to Phase 2 on June 8th. Moving PB County into Phase 2 comes as the number of virus cases has dropped statewide. There is still a statewide restriction on bars & breweries that has been in place since late June and the governor hinted that he will be making a decision on lifting the restrictions on bars & breweries that don’t serve food sometime later in the month of September.

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.
Although Florida is no longer restricting capacity at public facilities and business, The NFL’s Miami Dolphins will continue restricting its stadium capacity to 13,000 fans. The Dolphins play at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami which has a maximum capacity of 65,000 fans. The Dolphins CEO Tom Garfinkel said that the organization intents to remain at limited capacity and to follow CDC guidelines to put everyone’s safety first and to monitor things as time progresses.

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.

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 11/13, Governor Kemp renewed Georgia’s current COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions which now extend through November 30th. As cases rise, the governor urged citizens to continue wearing 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 14-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 will have to isolate for 14 days. For international trans-pacific travel, there is no test exemption, and all travelers must go through a 14-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.

**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.

**Illinois**

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

The state’s stay-at-home order was 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 businesses 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 guidelines for restaurants, bars and other food service areas went into place stating that patrons are required to wear a mask while being served and interacting with staff.

Due to rising cases, regions had been going under mitigation measures in October, with the final region being placed under such mitigations on November 4th. This means indoor dining will once again be prohibited statewide.

**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 23, 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.

**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. This executive order lasts through November 30th.

**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 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.

**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; child care 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 July 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 July 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 November 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.

**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, which expires December 4th. 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 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%.
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. On September 25th, after the state reported 20 new cases of the virus, both Oxford and York counties were classified as “yellow” in the state’s color-coded school advisory system, meaning there is an elevated risk of spread of the virus and a hybrid of in-person and remote instruction is advised. All other counties in Maine remained “green,” meaning the risk of COVID-19 spread is low and in-person instruction is possible as long as physical distancing and safety requirements can be followed. Both have since returned to the “green” classification, Oxford County on October 9th and York County on October 16th, once
again putting all counties in Maine back to the “green” classification. As of November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Somerset and Washington counties are designated as "yellow" in the state's school re-opening advisory system. As of November 9\textsuperscript{th}, Knox and Franklin counties have been added, making it a total of 4 counties that are classified “yellow”.

On September 30\textsuperscript{th}, Governor Mills extended the state of emergency proclamation for the seventh time, for another 30 days, through October 29\textsuperscript{th} amid continued coronavirus response efforts. On October 29\textsuperscript{th}, Governor Mills extended the state of emergency proclamation another 30 days through November 27\textsuperscript{th}.

On October 13\textsuperscript{th}, 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 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 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 1\textsuperscript{st}, 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 31\textsuperscript{st}. Effective Wednesday, November 4\textsuperscript{th}, 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 2\textsuperscript{nd}. 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 4\textsuperscript{th}, 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 5\textsuperscript{th}, 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.

**Maryland**

**Governor:** Larry Hogan (R)

Maryland started stage 1 of its Roadmap to Recovery plan on May 15\textsuperscript{th}. 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 29\textsuperscript{th}. With limited capacity and guidelines, outdoor youth sports, youth day camp activities and outdoor pools resumed.

June 5\textsuperscript{th} 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 don’t allow people standing or congregating, but booth service and tables are allowed.

Effective July 31st, face coverings are 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.

**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.

July 6th began step 1 of Phase 3 for the state, excluding Boston, which waited until July 13th. The sectors that reopened are 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 can’t exceed 25 people. Outdoor gatherings/events in enclosed places can’t exceed 25% occupancy or 100 people. Retail can now offer 50% occupancy. Libraries can open for browsing at 40% capacity. Casinos and horse racing tracks are open with guidelines.

Starting August 12th, new statewide restrictions began. Outdoor gathering size limits were reduced from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings remain at 25 people). Face coverings are now required where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing. Additionally, alcoholic beverages can only be served for on-site consumption with the purchase of food.

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 like trampolines, obstacle courses, roller rinks and laser tag are also permitted, and capacity increased to 50%. Fitting rooms opened in all types of retail stores. Gyms, museums, libraries and driving and flight schools increased their capacity to 50%. Outdoor gatherings increased the limit to 100 people.

Effective Nov. 6th, certain businesses and activities must close each day at 9:30pm, including in-person dining at restaurants. Additionally, indoor private gathering size limits decreased to 10 people and outdoor
private gatherings to 25 people. The limit on gatherings in public spaces and venues remains the same. All gatherings (regardless of size or location) must 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 has been suspended effective Nov. 14th through Dec. 31st.

**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 and massage businesses began reopening on June 15th, along with overnight camps and school sports activities. Gyms are still closed except in northern Michigan. On July 1st, Whitmer ordered indoor traditional bars and nightclubs to shut down in all regions except the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City, which are 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. Restrictions went into place on July 31st that limits statewide indoor gatherings to 10 and, across most of the state, limits 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 strict guidelines.

Effective Oct 21st, residential care facilities are allowed to offer indoor visits in certain circumstances that correspond to the risk level of the county. Specific rules for these indoor visitations are in place. The state's emergency order was extended on November 2nd. It reduced the size limit of indoor gatherings such as weddings, parties, and banquets. Additionally, for bars, restaurants, and social events outside private homes, indoor party sizes at a single table are now limited to 6 people. The Traverse City Region, which previously had fewer restrictions, moved back to phase 4, joining the rest of the state.

A three-week pause began on Nov. 18th. Under this, indoor residential gatherings are limited to 2 households at any one time. Bars and restaurants are open for outdoor dining, carry-out and delivery only. Gyms remain open for individual exercise with strict safety guidelines. Casinos, movie theaters, some entertainment facilities, and group exercise classes are closed. Organized sports (with some exceptions) must stop. Colleges and high schools must not offer any in-person classes.

**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.

As of October 22nd, only 1 of the state’s 87 counties, Cook County, had a low enough spread of the virus to meet the state’s metrics for in-person learning for all students. On the other end, 19 counties had enough virus activity for the state to recommend distance learning for all students.

Effective Nov. 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.

**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.

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 October 7th, most school districts in the state continue to follow a hybrid model of in-person and online learning. As of October 14th, The Mississippi Department of Education is rolling out a plan to deliver
nearly 400,000 remote learning devices, including laptops, to students. Districts are supposed to receive them no later than November 20th.

As of November 9th, Mississippi continues to see more than 1,000 new COVID-19 cases per day. When asked about reinstituting a statewide mask mandate, Governor Reeves said he’s looking at all options to slow the spread of the deadly virus but did not commit to a mandate for face coverings. Reeves said he imposed a mask mandate in 15 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."

**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 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.

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 alleys, conference centers, attractions, ballrooms, banquets 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.

On November 9th, St. Louis County warned of a potential shutdown if the county does not turn around its rate of infection and hospitalization. The St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force on November 8th reported the rolling seven-day average number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 to 82, a record.

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.

**Montana**

**Governor:** Steve Bullock (D)

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. 51 counties out of the state's 56 had four or more active cases as of November 9th. 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 October 12th, Yellowstone County issued a new health order because new cases of COVID-19 exceeded 565 cases in a seven-day period. Bars, restaurants, food courts, cafes, breweries, and wineries are required to close no later than 12:30 a.m. Yellowstone County Health Officer John Felton walked back an earlier consideration to further restrict capacity at those establishments to 25 percent. Instead, he kept the limit at 75 percent, the current level after speaking with local business owners. Felton said he heard none would survive if capacity was reduced to 25 percent. Restaurants can continue to offer take-out or drive-thru past 12:30 a.m., according to the order. The size of public or private group gatherings was limited to 25 people
as part of the order. Places of worship are capped at 50 percent capacity and must comply with masking and physical distance requirements. The terms of the health officer order took effect on October 14th at 8 a.m. and will be re-evaluated in four weeks.

**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/pace. 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 3rd, Governor Ricketts continued to defend his decision not to issue a statewide mask ordinance. This came after several legal disputes between county officials and the governor’s office surrounding what type of mandates would be allowed. The governor claims that local governments do not have the authority to enact a mask mandate without approval from his administration. On August 5th, Governor Ricketts doubled down on his decision not to issue a mask order by saying a mask mandate violates state law. He says the "Nebraska way" is different than how other states function during the pandemic and says he thinks people would resist if officials passed a mandate.

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 October 20th but on October 7th, Omaha extended the mask mandate through November 24th.

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 October 16th, Governor Ricketts issued a new Directed Health Measure for the state that went into effect on October 21st and ends on November 30th. 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 rejects 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. These new restrictions began on November 11th and will expire on November 30th.

**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.

Effective Oct. 1st, a new directive increased the gatherings limit in indoor and outdoor venues to 250 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is less. Starting Oct. 5th, all businesses subject to capacity limitations must post signs for their adjusted occupancy. On Oct. 26th, the state released a vaccination program playbook. On Nov. 12th, eight counties were flagged for having an elevated risk of transmission and were giving specific action plans.

**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 2nd, Sununu left open the possibility that a statewide mask mandate could be employed. As of October 19th, several New Hampshire towns require residents to wear face masks in public, including Nashua, Concord, Portsmouth, Keene, Durham and Hanover. New Hampshire’s largest city, Manchester, rejected a mask mandate on October 21st, instead requiring people to cover their faces when they visit city offices.

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.

**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 barside seating will be prohibited. All interstate games for indoor youth sports are prohibited.

**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.

**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 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 13th 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.

**North Carolina**

**Governor:** Roy Cooper (D)

North Carolina has entered Phase 3 of their 3 Phase Plan to reopen the state. Expanding on Phase 1 which broadly opened retail in-store and kept restaurants at pick-up only, Phase 2 will allow personal care facilities and restaurants to open at 50% capacity. Effective at 5 pm May 22nd, indoor gatherings are expanded to 10 people and outdoor to 25 people. Pools, daycare, and day camps highlight the other industries allowed to move to reopening. 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 remain closed under Phase 2.

On October 2nd North Carolina moved into Phase 3. Bars, Theatres, amusement parks, and outdoor venues could open for the first time in 7 months. All the listed sectors are permitted 30% capacity and have a 11 pm alcohol curfew until at least October 23rd. The gathering limits remain the same as in Phases 2 and 2.5. 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.

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. Planet Fitness and other gym chains scheduled a reopening for September 1st citing a loophole that allows them to open for “medical reasons” despite the Governor’s executive order mandating their closure.

**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 banquet/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. The governor did not issue a statewide mask mandate, again indicating it’s better at this time to continue encouraging people to take personal responsibility and wear masks, practice social distancing, wash hands, get a flu shot and limit crowds and gatherings to the immediate household.

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 will be limited to 10 people and the tables will need to be 6 ft apart. Bars are permitted to open as well, assuming they can allow all patrons to remain 6 feet apart. June 1st saw further reopening including banquet halls, day care, and catering. Receptions for weddings and other events are permitted with specific limits of 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. Major zoos reported they will first open to only members to limit their capacity. Casinos and amusement parks had their first day of reopening on June 19th.

Nursing homes allowed visitors beginning July 20th. Municipalities like Cleveland, Dayton and Columbus have instituted local orders requiring the use of masks after Governor DeWine decided not to make a statewide order. August 21st gave an announcement to performing arts venues that they will be allowed to reopen in the next couple weeks. Details of appropriate health regulations have yet to be announced.

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.

The Governor also announced that guidelines for schools reopening were delegated to each district individually. Many municipalities experienced protests from parents who wanted in-person learning, while counter actions had been taken by teacher’s unions in favor of online school. For more information about school guidelines by state, click the link featured at the top of this week’s update, “TVB Back to School Summary Table by State.”
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 October 12th, there was still no statewide mask mandate, but there were a total of 17 towns and cities in Oklahoma with mask mandates in place, including Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Norman. Oklahoma City’s mask order expires on December 7th and Tulsa’s mask order expires on January 31st, 2021.

November 18th will be the first day that restaurants and bars will be required to space tables out 6 feet and close by 11 pm 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.

**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.

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

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.

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.

**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 retail 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.

**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 country 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."
Utah

Governor: Gary R. Herbert (R)

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 July 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.
### Vermont

**Governor:** Phil Scott (R)

Vermont has 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 are required to maintain 10 feet between tables, and no more than two households with parties of 10 or less can dine-in. June 26th is the first day restaurants will be able to expand from 25% capacity to 50% capacity for outdoor and indoor seating. Lodging businesses may open at 50% capacity or have 25 guests, with only one party in the elevator at a time and no more than groups of 10 in any party. Religious institutions may operate 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 appointment only operations strongly encouraged. Only hair care is allowed in these businesses until further notice. June has seen gatherings be expanded to 150 people, overnight summer camps open, and all entertainment or recreational businesses to open 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 this fall after continued declines in case.

August 3rd saw the statehouse pass a bill that will give frontline and those who worked in person through the pandemic a 1,200-2,000-stimulus check on a first come first serve basis. To qualify a worker must have worked in person since April and make less than 25 dollars an hour. The University of Vermont’s student body returned to campus this week and alleviated fears of increasing cases when the students reported only a 0.22% positive rate. At almost half of the statewide positive test rate, the campus looks on track to remain open.

September 18th saw new guidelines for bars and restaurants which can now open at 100% capacity with 6 feet of social distancing. This new approval also extends to hotels and lodging facilities, although visitors from most states are required to follow a 14-day quarantine. September 26th saw school sports begin again with practice and competition between schools. A state of emergency remains in the state through at least December 15th.

### Virginia

**Governor:** Ralph Northam (D)

Virginia is 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. A recent announcement from the state government changed that though, and as of May 29th the entire state will be in Phase 1 of reopening. Many parts of Southern Virginia moved to Phase 2 shortly after that. Phase 1 includes loose restrictions on many industries including 50% limits on retail and restaurants with outdoor seating. The government is also limiting gyms to only outdoor classes with no more than 10 people per session. Pools are receiving similar limitations with only lap lanes open for a small number of swimmers. Salons, tattoo parlors, and hairdressers will be appointment only and will be required to wear masks for every client. Churches and other religious facilities will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity.

Governor Northam announced a statewide move into Phase 3 on July 1st. This will fully open retail, restaurants, beaches, childcare, and state park at full capacity. In addition, capacity at fitness centers and movie theatres will be expanded to 75% and 50% capacity, respectively. Face covering will still be required
indoors, and overnight camps will remain closed. Gatherings have been expanded to 250 people, but teleworking remains strongly encouraged.

Increasing cases in the Hampton Roads area pushed Governor Northam to announce that students would not go in for in-person schooling if Virginia is unable to remain in Phase 3. On July 25th, he also announced that he is considering many options to curb a potential outbreak including bring the state back into Phase 2, altering the current gathering limit lower than the current 250, or changing the guidelines of Phase 3. As of October 20th, Phase 3 remains in its original state. Northern Virginia saw many movie theatres partially open this week for the first time since March. Labor Day marked the first day of statewide attractions like the Museum of Science opening since March. All patrons over the age of 10 will be 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 are also now prevented from serving alcohol past 10 PM. Richmond’s school board also voted 8-1 in favor of fully online learning option for the entire fall semester. Fairfield, Virginia’s largest school district, has pass a plan that defaults to hybrid learning while giving parents the option to select fully online for the fall semester. University of Virginia and other colleges in the state saw minor outbreaks of cases rises when students returned to campus, but all schools have defended their reopening thus far.

Sunday November 15th marked the first day that new restrictions were imposed in Virginia. The two most significant decreased the public gathering limit from 250 to 25, and mandated masks in public for anyone 5 years or older. The 25-person limit will not apply to gyms or religious services and is primarily targeted at reducing parties and social events. The state government also announced stricter enforcement and harsher penalties for businesses not allowing patrons to socially distance properly. Alcohol sales will be restricted to 10 P.M. as well.

**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.

**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 allows 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 may resume, such as tanning, tattoos, skin services etc. Restaurants are open for indoor dining/drinking at 50% capacity, which does not include outdoor patrons. Fitness establishments can open with a limit of 5 people per 1,000 square feet. Recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys or skating rinks, are open 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 may also open/resume.

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.” The public health emergency was extended through Dec. 31st.

**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.

**Wisconsin**

**Governor:** Tony Evers (D)

Wisconsin 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.
Natrona County announced that staff and students in its public schools would be required to wear masks this school year. 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.

**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.