



The #PAStartsUpSafely Framework

A three-phase plan providing for the gradual and safe reopening of PA's economy

- Protect seniors and other at-risk individuals throughout the entirety of the reopening process
- Maintain public health protocols for businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and the general public
- Ensure local hospital capacity is preserved
- Gradually allow counties to resume economic activities based on data-driven metrics
- Eliminate unfair consequences from the arbitrary definition of what is a “life-sustaining” employer
- Immediately resume certain outdoor-centric commerce and recreation
- Emphasize testing, both diagnostic and serological, as well as contact tracing

Summary

Moving From Phase-to-Phase: Counties move from phase-to-phase after evidence shows:

- Local hospital capacity is not at risk of being overwhelmed; and
- Reduced or minimal COVID-19 transmission in a county

Phase One: Any business that can adopt social distancing and hygiene protocols, and is located in a county with declining or limited COVID-19 cases, may reopen. Medically-necessary health care procedures unrelated to COVID-19 may also resume.

Phase Two: Higher-trafficked establishments like restaurants, bars, and gyms can reopen with proper social distancing and hygiene protocols. Schooling can resume under purview of the state and school districts.

Phase Three: Implementation of this phase depends upon significant progress in a combination of increased testing capacity and effective therapies for COVID-19. This phase contemplates relaxing restrictions on higher-trafficked establishments, like restaurants, bars, and gyms, as well as beginning to reopen entertainment venues.

Highlights

The plans put forth by Senator Toomey and Governor Wolf have important similarities, but there are several ways to improve upon the Governor's plan to restart PA, including:

- **Timing:** Two-thirds of the state already meet specific data-based criteria and could begin safely resuming some economic activity immediately.
- **Flexibility:** Provide for county-by-county consideration of anomalous data points that result from testing delays or localized outbreaks in nursing homes.
- **Hospital Procedures:** Allow hospitals, independent physician offices and outpatient surgical centers in certain parts of the commonwealth to immediately resume performing medically-necessary procedures if CMS guidelines are met.
- **Testing:** Expand testing capacity and improve testing for at-risk health care workers, including those in long-term care facilities like nursing homes.