



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County to Begin Phased Re-Opening May 15th

Geneseo, NY, May 11, 2020 — Today, Governor Cuomo announced that the Finger Lakes region is slated to meet the 7 of 7 benchmarks for re-opening and can commence a “Phase 1” re-opening beginning May 15, 2020.

Livingston County, as part of the Finger Lakes region, celebrated the news. David L. LeFeber, Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors, stated, “I understand people want more to open up on May 15th – and we are pressing the State to allow additional sectors to open up – but the fact that we are in a region that can open up to some extent on May 15th is a good thing and we must be positive and optimistic yet maintain our vigilance. Some other areas cannot commence the phased-in re-opening until June 1st at the earliest. So we are trying to look on the bright side here. We will work closely with our regional partners to share information and be consistent in our messaging.”

Phase 1 will include re-opening the following sectors of the economy:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fishing
- Construction
- Manufacturing and wholesale supply chain
- Retail (with curbside pickup)
- Landscaping and gardening
- Outdoor, low-risk recreational activities like tennis
- Drive-in movie theaters

These sectors join the list of designated essential businesses and economy sectors that have been allowed to maintain operations during the NY Pause. This list is available [here](#). Recently, auto dealerships and service centers, private campgrounds and golf courses have also seen restrictions modified.

It remains to be seen if the social aspects of NY Pause will be loosened at all in Phase 1. Social distancing and mask-wearing will still be required but questions remain on gatherings and the County expects additional guidance this week.

Livingston County Public Health Director Jennifer Rodriguez stated, “It is imperative that we remain diligent about flattening the curve even further through strict adherence to the standards of distancing, wearing masks and frequent washing or sanitizing our hands and places of contact. Any relaxation of these standards can result in a regression of our current conditions and could cause us to return to the prior phase or outright closures. We obviously do not want that.”

In order to re-open other aspects of the economy in Phase 2 – which could potentially start as early as June 1st – the Finger Lakes region must continue to meet all of the 7 benchmarks at the next review period toward the end of May. According to Governor Cuomo, subsequent phases and impacted sectors include:

- Phase 2 – Professional services (including Government), finances and insurance, retail, administrative support, real estate/rental leasing
- Phase 3 – Restaurants/food services and hotels/accommodations
- Phase 4 – Arts/entertainment/recreation and education

County Administrator Ian M. Coyle stated, “This County and this Region have done a great job at displaying responsible citizenship. Without the work of the people, we would not be able to meet these re-opening standards. On the plan itself, the County submitted ideas to the State that incorporated more elements for the Phase 1 re-opening. Alas, some suggestions have not gained traction in Albany. That being said, we are hopeful that trends stay where they are, allowing Phase 2 to begin on June 1st so we can reopen even more elements of our economy.”

“We have established a re-opening task force in Livingston County,” said Bill Bacon, Director of Livingston County Development. “Members of this task force include representatives from the County's main economic engines, including the Chamber of Commerce and Industrial

Development Agency among others. We will announce the specific charges of this task force later this week.”

Bacon recommends that all businesses prepare a re-opening plan that is available to customers and employees upon request. Templates for business plans can be found [here](#).

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