



## **News from Livingston County, NY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Julie Barry, Grants and Public  
Information Coordinator

**Phone:** 585-243-7051

**Email:** [jbarry@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:jbarry@co.livingston.ny.us)

### **Chairman of the Board David L. LeFeber** ***Statement on Governor's Press Conference and*** ***Decision on Phase 2 Re-Opening***

**Geneseo, NY, May 29, 2020** — Our residents and businesses have endured the social and economic hardships of this pandemic, gritted their way through, and adjusted to this new normal incredibly well, given the challenges and circumstances. As a County, our goal has been to protect the health of the public from Day 1 – control the spread, flatten the curve, and educate the public on public health best practices. We have succeeded in doing that and will continue to press and push on all measures and alerts to advise the residents of this fine County on the status of the pandemic, our response, and our recommended action plans. In all that we do, public health is paramount. It must be – it has to be – and it will be.

The County supports a phased-in approach to re-opening that is grounded in science, objective facts, and agreed-upon datasets and public health principles. We do not believe that everything, at once, should be re-opened. Let me share some facts:

- All objective indicators in Livingston County show a control in the spread and Covid19 cases
- Livingston County meets all of the 7 state benchmarks. The Finger Lakes region does as well.
- We have maintained more than 30% hospital and ICU capacity for the last 6 weeks, we have the lowest positive rate of cases since the inception of the pandemic at 3%, we are introducing antibody testing, and we continue to monitor all exposure and contacts by having 19 dedicated contract tracers in our Health Department.
- Our public nursing home remains Covid19 free and is the model for public nursing homes statewide thanks to a dedicated and vigilant staff.

- We have daily briefings with our County's Incident Command team, where we review day-by-day health data from Livingston County on Covid19 positives, negative test results, nursing home staff and resident testing, recoveries, antibody testing, hospitalizations, and numerous other indicators. This allows for movement, resource deployment and responsive action should an uptick in a trend present as worrisome from a public health perspective.
- We also participate in the daily Finger Lakes Control room and share information with regional counties.

Lastly – let me be clear – these standards we speak of in terms of benchmarks are the exact same standards the Governor espoused as being the metrics used moving forward in phases to gauge a region's ability to move to the next Phase in the reopening process.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and in consultation and cooperation with the County's Public Health Director, I am proud to say that Livingston County has reached the Phase 2 threshold to commence business re-opening of Phase 2 sectors (listed here: <https://forward.ny.gov/phase-two-industries>), subject to applicable, NYS-based conditions, restrictions and protocols.

This message should not construe a relaxation or looseness as it relates to public health or safety. This is not carte blanche, and this is not done haphazardly. The County of Livingston, by any objective review and analysis, meets the requirements for commencement of the next phase of this reopening process and will continue to measure ourselves against the compliance of all metrics as outlined by public health experts.

Chairman David L. LeFeber

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