



The Plan: Phases For Re-Opening PHASE 2

Phase 2 will begin after the successful conclusion of Phase 1, which includes a downward trajectory of the syndromic and epidemiology criteria while maintaining adequate health care capacity. This will occur when there is no evidence of a rebound or resurgence of COVID-19 cases and satisfies the benchmarks outlined in this **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan.

The **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan sets forth minimum recommended health protocols. Individuals and businesses should adhere to all public guidance by federal, state and local officials, including state regulatory agencies.

INDIVIDUALS

Vulnerable Populations

Individuals older than 65 years of age and individuals with a serious underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) should continue to stay at home. When leaving the home, these individuals should follow social distancing and other general mitigation guidance. Those living with vulnerable individuals should be aware of the exposure risk that they could carry the virus back home after returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical. Vulnerable populations should affirmatively inform their employer that they are a member of the vulnerable population so that their employer can plan accordingly.

Social Gatherings

All individuals should continue to maximize physical distance from others in public, particularly in enclosed environments.

- Individuals should avoid socializing in groups of more than 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Travel

Individuals may resume non-essential travel.

EMPLOYERS

Telework

All employers should continue to encourage teleworking where practical. Employers should begin implementing plans for employees to return to work in phases.

Employee Screening

All employers should screen employees before entering the premises for symptoms of COVID-19 or influenza like illness and, where practical, take the temperature of each employee.

The Plan: Phase 2 (continued)

Travel

Employers should minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel.

Local Government Meetings

In-person quorum for local government bodies should resume, allowing no more than 50 people in attendance, as long as social distancing guidelines can still be maintained. Continue to allow authorized technology and video conferencing for public participation at local government meetings.

OTHER

Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs

Bars, pubs, and nightclubs that derive more than 50 percent of sales from alcohol should operate at 50 percent of building capacity with an emphasis on diminished standing room capacity and prioritizing outdoor service. Owners should consider:

- Spacing tables at least six feet apart and reducing and spreading the arrangement of seating at the bar to incorporate appropriate social distancing between patrons as well as between patrons and the bar staff.
- Restricting coupling of tables or table groups to 10 or fewer patrons.
- Encouraging beverage orders to be taken at the table by bar or wait staff rather than at the bar counter.
- Incorporating intentional and manageable traffic flows to enable responsible social distancing for patrons waiting on service when accepting orders directly at the bar.
- Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces after each use.
- Menus, if laminated, should be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus should be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

Restaurants

Restaurants and food establishments should operate at no more than 75 percent of building capacity, with appropriate social distancing and a minimum of 6 feet separating parties, as the virus is most transmissible indoors under close, sustained contact.

- Parties should not exceed 10 people. Businesses should limit inside waiting areas for patrons waiting to be seated.
- Allow walk-ins but continue to emphasize a reservations-only business model or call-ahead seating to manage spacing effectively in restaurant.
- Outdoor dining areas should continue to be prioritized.
- Operators should clean and disinfect all surfaces after every use.
- Businesses should consider posting signs to remind staff and patrons of safety and sanitization protocols.
- Businesses should continue to screen employees before work and consider requiring employees to wear face masks or face coverings while inside or within close proximity to members of the public.

The Plan: Phase 2 (continued)

- Menus, if laminated, should be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus should be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.
- Businesses should avoid cafeteria-style dining arrangements. If salad bars or buffets are utilized, efforts to mitigate risk should include barriers to block virus spread from sneezes and coughs and service utensils should be handled by staff and/or washed frequently.

Gyms and Fitness Centers

Gyms and fitness centers should:

- Operate at no more than 75 percent of building capacity.
- Adhere to strict social distancing and sanitation protocols, including cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces after each use.
- Separate patrons by at least 6 feet.
- Resume indoor group sessions and classes with restricted capacity to promote social distancing, as the virus is most transmissible indoors under close, sustained contact.

Recreation

- **State Parks:** All state parks should be opened for daytime use. Some facilities within state parks—including overnight accommodations, pavilions, interpretive programs, any large group activities or events—will remain closed.
- **Public Beaches:** Beaches should be fully open.
- **Large Venues:** (i.e. movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys, arcades, playhouses, casinos) These venues should utilize strict social distancing protocols and should operate at no more than 75 percent capacity, with a minimum of 6 feet separating parties. Additional guidance includes:
 - Parties should not exceed 10 people.
 - Operators should clean and disinfect all surfaces after each use.
 - Businesses should consider screening employees before work and requiring workers to wear face masks or cloth face coverings while inside or within close proximity to members of the public.

Large Sporting Events and Theme Parks

- Large spectator sporting events should limit occupancy of venues to 50 percent of building capacity and use strict social distancing.
- Theme parks may consider re-opening with capacity limits, strict social distancing and proper measures to clean and disinfect.

Vacation Rentals

Vacation rentals should consider the following:

- Vacation rentals should open and operate for in-state reservations only (i.e. only Florida residents).
- Prohibit rentals to persons traveling internationally or from a state or locality with a substantial community spread of COVID-19.

The Plan: Phase 2 (continued)

- Maintain 72 hours between guest check-ins to allow for effective cleaning and disinfecting of the rental unit.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the property between rentals and post signage in all units detailing cleaning and sanitation procedures.

Personal Services Businesses

Personal Services Businesses, such as cosmetology salons, barber shops and nail salons, should limit occupancy to 75 percent of building capacity and should consider the following mitigation measures:

- Allow service for walk-in patrons at the discretion of the business owner, so long as patron waiting areas can accommodate proper social distancing protocols, as the virus is most transmissible indoors under close, sustained contact.
- Regularly clean and disinfect working stations and equipment between interactions with customers to the greatest frequency feasible.
- Suggest all employees wear face masks, cloth face coverings and other PPE while inside or within close proximity to members of the public.
- Encourage customers to wear face masks or cloth face coverings when entering the premises and provide face masks or cloth face coverings upon request, if available.
- Post signage to discourage customers against congregating outside of the premises.
- Remove all unnecessary, frequent-touch items such as magazines, newspapers, service menus, any other unnecessary paper products and décor from customer service areas.

Retail Businesses

Retail businesses should consider the following mitigation measures:

- Operate at no more than 75 percent of building capacity.
- Post signage to direct the flow of customers within the premises to promote social distancing.
- Regularly clean and disinfect working stations and commonly touched surfaces at the greatest frequency feasible.



The Plan: Phases For Re-Opening PHASE 3

Phase 3 will begin after the successful conclusion of Phase 2, which includes a downward trajectory of the syndromic and epidemiology criteria while maintaining adequate health care capacity. This will occur when there is no evidence of a rebound or resurgence of COVID-19 cases and satisfies the benchmarks outlined in this **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan.

The **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan sets forth minimum recommended health protocols. Individuals and businesses should adhere to all public guidance by federal, state and local officials, including state regulatory agencies.

INDIVIDUALS

Vulnerable Populations

Individuals older than 65 years of age and individuals with a serious underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) can resume public interactions, but should practice social distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed. Vulnerable populations should affirmatively inform their employer that they are a member of the vulnerable population so that their employer can plan accordingly.

Social Gatherings

Non-vulnerable populations should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.

Travel

Non-essential travel may continue.

EMPLOYERS

Telework

Employees should resume unrestricted staffing of worksites and implement the final phasing in of employees returning to work. For vulnerable populations, teleworking can be considered.

Employee Screening

Employers should take prudent and practical measures to ensure employees do not enter the premises if they believe they are infected with COVID-19 or show symptoms of influenza like illness.

The Plan: Phase 3 (continued)

Travel

Employees should resume non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel.

Local Government Meetings

These meetings should return to in-person quorum and public participation for local government bodies.

OTHER

Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs

Bars, pubs, and nightclubs that derive more than 50 percent of sales from alcohol should operate at full capacity with limited social distancing protocols. Businesses should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation. Menus, if laminated, should be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus should be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

Restaurants

Restaurants and food service establishments may operate at full capacity with limited social distancing protocols. Businesses should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation. Menus, if laminated, should continue to be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus shall be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

Gyms and Fitness Centers

Gyms and fitness centers should open to full capacity but should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation.

Recreation

- **State Parks:** State parks should be fully opened, including overnight accommodations.
- **Public Beaches:** Beaches should remain fully opened.
- **Large Venues:** (i.e. movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys, arcades, playhouses, casinos) These venues should re-open fully with limited social distancing protocols.

Large Sporting Events and Theme Parks

- Large spectator sporting events should consider reducing capacity with limited social distancing protocols.
- Theme parks may return to normal operations with limited social distancing protocols.

The Plan: Phase 3 (continued)

Vacation Rentals

Vacation Rentals should resume normal operating procedures but should continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect the property between rentals.

Personal Services Businesses

Personal Services Businesses, such as cosmetology salons, barber shops and nail salons, should operate under full capacity but should consider the following mitigation measures:

- Continue to maintain adequate sanitation practices for employees and patrons.
- Regularly clean and disinfect working stations and equipment between interactions with customers to the greatest frequency feasible.
- Remove all unnecessary, frequent-touch items such as magazines, newspapers, service menus, any other unnecessary paper products and décor from customer service areas.

Retail Businesses

Operators of retail businesses should operate at full capacity but should continue to maintain adequate sanitation practices for employees and patrons.



EDUCATION

The Department of Education and the State University System, in consultation with state health officials, should monitor the re-opening phases as set by this report. However, plans should be developed to resume on-campus learning, full-time, for the 2020-2021 school year.

- The Department of Education should develop a plan to phase-in education, safely, during the summer months to provide supplemental education for closing achievement gaps for early learning through K-12 students who may need additional supports due to COVID-19 school closures.
- Florida's postsecondary institutions should continue to implement distance learning measures to the extent possible and develop a plan for return to on-campus instruction.

SMALL AND RURAL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the backbone of the Florida economy. Getting them up and working again is critically important for Florida's economic recovery. The guidance contained in Florida's **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan is not a condition for a small business to operate, but the deployment of these recommended measures should occur to the greatest extent feasible to promote economic recovery while ensuring the public health and safety of all Floridians.

Businesses that frequently interact with customers should institute mitigation measures outlined in the guidance within specific phases to ensure that they can conduct their operations in a safe manner and prevent the spread of COVID-19. While these measures should be universally deployed, many small businesses will be unable to afford PPE and need assistance to provide PPE or other protective equipment.

As the state moves forward with the **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan, resources should be provided to aid small businesses to acquire the protective materials needed to restart operations. These measures can include:

- Direct grant assistance to local governments focused on small business programs to acquire PPE and other protective infrastructure such as sneeze guards, thermometers, and sanitation supplies.
- Coordinated support from the Division of Emergency Management to local governments to provide protective health supplies when deficiencies exist that severely impair small business operations.

Additionally, rural communities have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic differently than urban areas. Florida's agriculture industry has felt significant economic strain through the supply chain from mitigation measures taken by restaurants and retail businesses.

Ongoing Considerations (continued)

Through all stages of economic recovery, Florida's rural communities should be a focus of efforts to restore stability to the state's diverse economic base. Some examples of measures include:

- Policies developed by Florida's social services programs for food assistance should prioritize buying from Florida growers and producers, and state vendors should prioritize Florida businesses as a condition of all procurement.
- Florida economic development planning should develop marketing and branding strategies to further promote rural communities and products and food produced in Florida to Floridians.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, through its emergency operation function, should continue to partner with local governments and small businesses to communicate successful mitigation strategies for businesses.

TOURISM

Tourism is vital to Florida's economic well-being. Tourism marketing by VISIT FLORIDA should be reintroduced in phases that acknowledge the progression the state makes through the **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan. Currently, VISIT FLORIDA is engaged in limited marketing. During the initial phases of the **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan, VISIT FLORIDA should focus on promoting in-state travel when businesses are ready.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS: BUSINESS DISASTER PLANNING

Before a Disaster Strikes

A disaster of any size could have an impact on business. All businesses should build a disaster continuity plan and encourage employees to create a family emergency plan. It is important to consider how a disaster could affect employees, customers and workplaces. Important considerations include: how to manage a business if access to the workplace is limited by road closures, streets are impassable, or communication is limited.

Additionally, businesses should similarly plan for the unique challenges of a hurricane during a pandemic and set aside disaster supplies. This may include warehousing or storage of emergency masks, cloth face coverings or other PPE along with generators and other equipment.

During a Disaster

During a disaster, safety is the main concern. Businesses are encouraged to review their Business Continuity Plan to ensure the information is up to date and employees are aware of the plan and their responsibilities. It is important to monitor relevant emergency management news for weather and safety updates. In case an evacuation is ordered, business owners should secure their businesses and follow instructions by local emergency management on evacuation orders. If local emergency management officials order an evacuation and a business owner makes the decision to remain at their business, emergency responders will not be able to respond during the disaster.

Ongoing Considerations (continued)

Regarding COVID-19, the unique issues of this public health crisis may require emergency management officials to consider stay-at-home orders instead of evacuating people in a storm's path. If evacuations are required, transportation network companies, such as Uber and Lyft, may be considered in addition to buses to assist in evacuations. Further, utilizing additional school locations to add capacity to allow for greater social distancing as well as hotels may be considered in addition to current evacuation centers.