

White House Opening America Back Up Again Recap

To begin implementing the guidelines, states must first meet a "gating" criterion.

Gating Criteria

- Downward trajectory of influenza like illnesses reported within a 14 days period and downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period.
- Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period and downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests).

If that criterion is met, states, could then enter Phase One, according to the guidelines. Some states may be able to move to the next phase before May 1, according to the official. In some states, governors would be able to open up some counties before others.

Phase One Protocols

- Large venues like restaurants, movie theaters, sporting venues and places of worship would be allowed to reopen if they "operate under strict physical distancing protocols," according to the guidelines.
- Gyms would be also be permitted to reopen "if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols," the plan says. Bars, however, "should remain closed."
- In addition, elective surgery would be allowed to resume "as clinically appropriate, on an outpatient basis," at certain facilities.
- Schools and youth activities like day care and camp that are currently closed should remain closed, and visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should remain prohibited.
- All vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place and members of households with vulnerable residents "should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home.
- It also calls for the employers to allow employees to telework.
- The plan also emphasizes that all people should continue to practice social distancing when in public and that they should continue to minimize nonessential travel.

Phase Two Protocols

- Applies to states and regions "with no evidence of a rebound" that "satisfy the gating criteria a second time."
- Schools and activities like day care centers and camps could reopen and nonessential travel could resume.
- Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals, however, would remain prohibited.
- The large venues that were allowed to reopen in Phase One, like restaurants, movie theaters and sporting venues, could remain open and would be allowed to ease their physical distancing protocols to a "moderate" level.
- Bars could begin operating with "diminished standing-room occupancy," while gyms could remain open with "strict" distancing sanitation protocols, according to the plan.

Phase Three Protocols

- For states and regions with "no evidence of a rebound" that satisfy the gating criteria a third time.
- Vulnerable individuals could resume public interactions but should practice social distancing, according to the guidelines.
- Low-risk populations should still "consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.
- Only in Phase Three could work sites resume normal staffing protocols without restrictions.
- Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals could resume.
- People who interacted with residents and patients would still have to remain "diligent regarding hygiene."
- Large venues could operate under "limited" social distancing protocols, gyms could remain open with "standard" sanitation protocols and bars could operate with "increased standing room occupancy."