MI SAFE START

A PLAN TO RE-ENGAGE MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
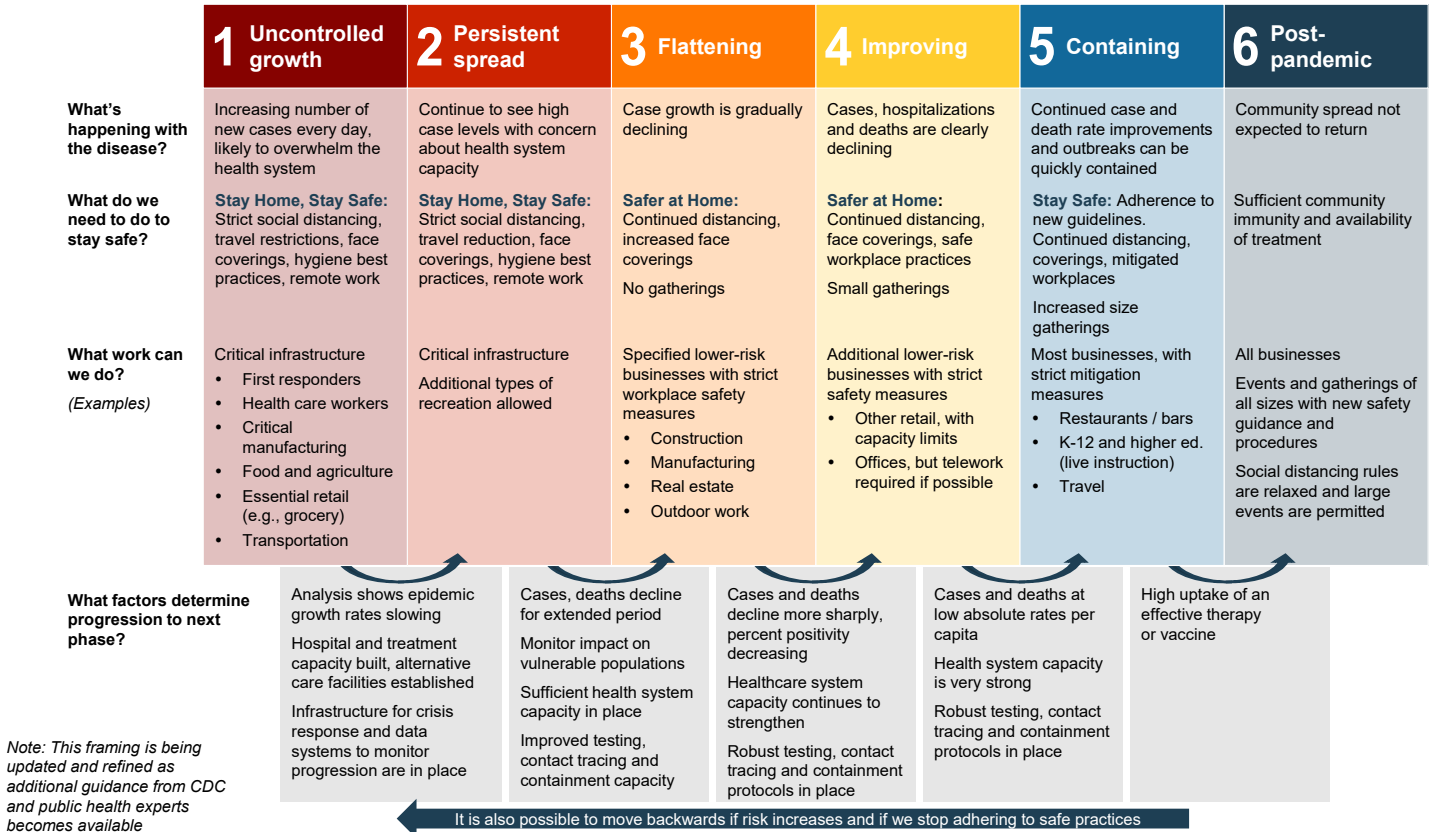
May 7, 2020

MI SAFE START PLAN

	1 Uncontrolled growth	**2 Persistent spread**	**3 Flattening**	**4 Improving**	**5 Containing**	**6 Post-pandemic**
What's happening with the disease?	Increasing number of new cases every day, likely to overwhelm the health system	Continue to see high case levels with concern about health system capacity	Case growth is gradually declining	Cases, hospitalizations and deaths are clearly declining	Continued case and death rate improvements and outbreaks can be quickly contained	Community spread not expected to return
What do we need to do to stay safe?	**Stay Home, Stay Safe:** Strict social distancing, travel restrictions, face coverings, hygiene best practices, remote work	**Stay Home, Stay Safe:** Strict social distancing, travel reduction, face coverings, hygiene best practices, remote work	**Safer at Home:** Continued distancing, increased face coverings No gatherings	**Safer at Home:** Continued distancing, face coverings, safe workplace practices Small gatherings	**Stay Safe:** Adherence to new guidelines. Continued distancing, coverings, mitigated workplaces Increased size gatherings	Sufficient community immunity and availability of treatment
What work can we do? *(Examples)*	Critical infrastructure • First responders • Health care workers • Critical manufacturing • Food and agriculture • Essential retail (e.g., grocery) • Transportation	Critical infrastructure Additional types of recreation allowed	Specified lower-risk businesses with strict workplace safety measures • Construction • Manufacturing • Real estate • Outdoor work	Additional lower-risk businesses with strict safety measures • Other retail, with capacity limits • Offices, but telework required if possible	Most businesses, with strict mitigation measures • Restaurants / bars • K-12 and higher ed. (live instruction) • Travel	All businesses Events and gatherings of all sizes with new safety guidance and procedures Social distancing rules are relaxed and large events are permitted
What factors determine progression to next phase?	Analysis shows epidemic growth rates slowing Hospital and treatment capacity built, alternative care facilities established Infrastructure for crisis response and data systems to monitor progression are in place	Cases, deaths decline for extended period Monitor impact on vulnerable populations Sufficient health system capacity in place Improved testing, contact tracing and containment capacity	Cases and deaths decline more sharply, percent positivity decreasing Healthcare system capacity continues to strengthen Robust testing, contact tracing and containment protocols in place	Cases and deaths at low absolute rates per capita Health system capacity is very strong Robust testing, contact tracing and containment protocols in place	High uptake of an effective therapy or vaccine	

Note: This framing is being updated and refined as additional guidance from CDC and public health experts becomes available

It is also possible to move backwards if risk increases and if we stop adhering to safe practices

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MICHIGAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY COUNCIL REPORTING REGIONS

MERC Regions

1. Detroit Region
2. Grand Rapids Region
3. Kalamazoo Region
4. Saginaw Region
5. Lansing Region
6. Traverse City Region
7. Jackson Region
8. Upper Peninsula

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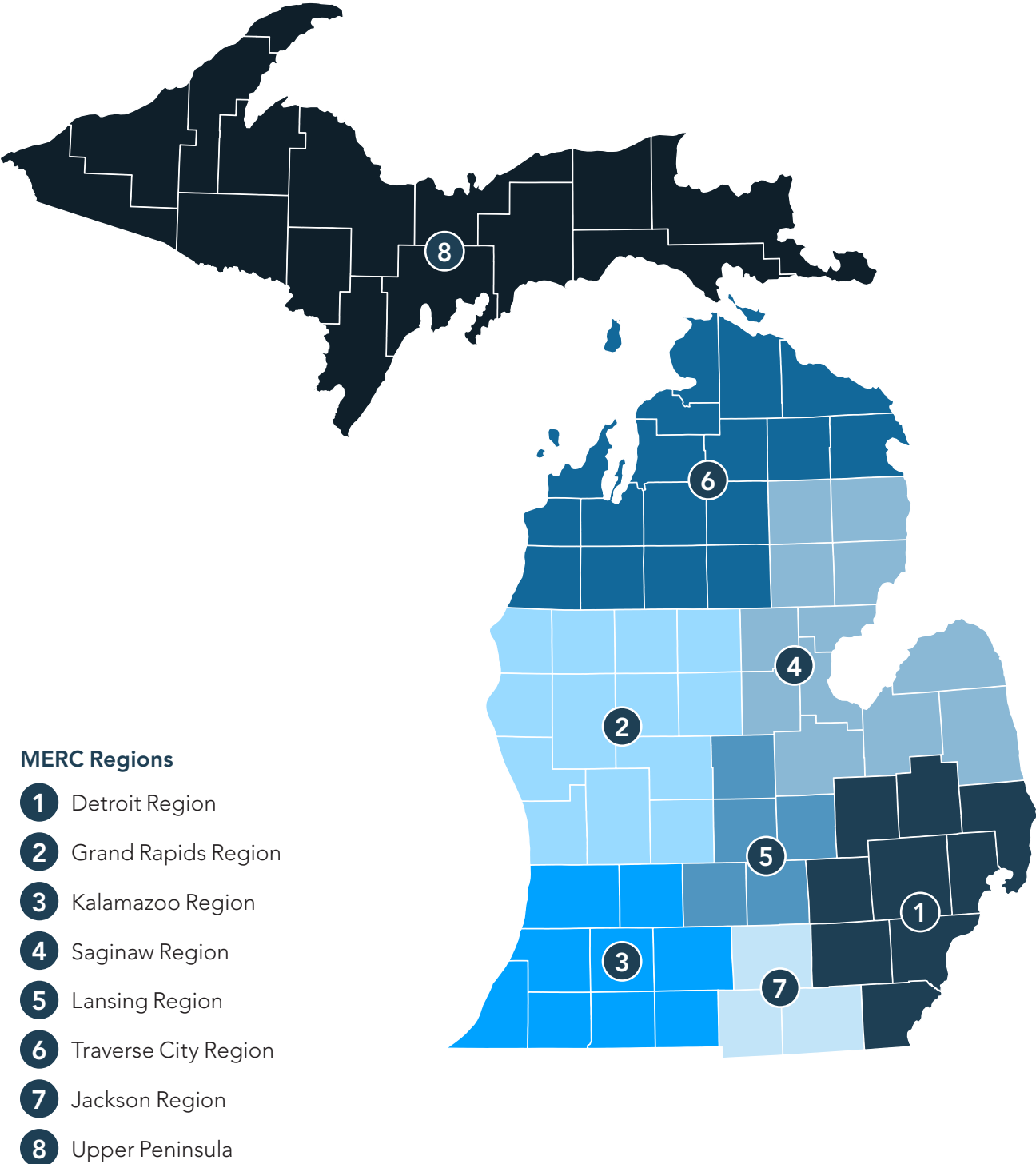
INTRODUCTION

We have made tremendous progress in fighting COVID-19 in Michigan. Our medical workers, first responders, and other critical workers have put their lives on the line for us every day, and we owe it to them to do whatever we can to stop the spread of the virus.

All of us know the importance of getting the economy moving again. We have already loosened some restrictions on landscaping, construction, and manufacturing. But the worst thing we could do is open up in a way that causes a second wave of infections and death, puts health care workers at further risk, and wipes out all the progress we've made.

We will keep listening to experts and examining the data here in Michigan to reduce deaths, keep our healthcare system from collapsing, and protect those working on the front lines.

Together, we will move forward.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan outlines how we will begin to re-engage while continuing to keep our communities safe. Re-engagement will happen in phases. Those businesses that are necessary to protect and sustain life are already open. As we move into lower-risk phases, additional business categories will re-open and the restrictions on public gatherings and social interactions will ease.

As always, we will be guided by the facts in deciding whether to transition from one phase to another. We are looking at data every day to understand where we are: data that tells us where the epidemic is spreading, whether our hospitals and other health-care providers can safely cope with any surge in infections, and whether our public health system is up to the task of suppressing new outbreaks.

We need to keep working to expand testing and require people who test positive, or are close contacts of those who do, to self-isolate. Moving too fast without the tests we need could put Michigan at risk of a second wave of infections. The most important thing right now is to listen to the experts and follow the medical science.

We are also looking at the best available evidence on the risks that different business sectors present and the steps that can be taken to mitigate those risks and protect workers. Our Safe Start Plan has been guided by the state's top public health and university experts, and is based on input from a wide range of experts, including the CEOs of major Michigan companies, labor and union leaders, and small business owners around Michigan.

We must reopen gradually and safely. By proceeding incrementally, we can evaluate the effects of our decisions. If cases start to surge, we may need to tighten up again. If the disease is contained, we can keep relaxing. The MI Safe Start Plan will re-engage our economy carefully and deliberately to avoid a second wave of infections.

This will be a long process. Our ability to move forward depends on all of us and on our collective commitment to protecting ourselves and others—whether at home, at work, or anywhere else we go. We will always put the health and safety of Michiganders first.

STAGES OF OUR RESPONSE

In Governor Whitmer's Safe Start Plan, we evaluate where the state and each of its regions are across six phases of this epidemic:

1. **Uncontrolled growth:** Increasing number of new cases every day, likely to overwhelm the health system. Only critical infrastructure remains open.

2. **Persistent spread:** Continue to see high case levels with concern about health system capacity. Only critical infrastructure remains open, with lower-risk recreational activities allowed.

3. **Flattening:** Epidemic is no longer increasing and health system capacity is sufficient for current needs. Specified lower-risk businesses can reopen given adherence to strict safety measures.

4. **Improving:** Epidemic clearly decreasing and health system capacity is strong with robust testing and contact tracing. Additional businesses can reopen given adherence to strict safety measures.

5. **Containing:** Epidemic levels are extremely low and outbreaks can be quickly contained. Health system capacity is strong with robust testing and tracing. Most businesses can reopen given adherence to strict safety measures.

6. **Post-pandemic:** Community spread is not expected to return (e.g., because of a vaccine) and the economy is fully reopened.

Assessing which phase we are in involves a comprehensive review of the facts on the ground. Guided by our experts, we are closely monitoring data that allows us to answer three questions:

A. Is the epidemic growing, flattening, or declining?

B. Does our health system have the capacity to address current needs? Can it cope with a potential surge of new cases?

C. Are our testing and tracing efforts sufficient to monitor the epidemic and control its spread?

We have also worked with our best public health experts and the business community to assess the infection risks posed by workplaces across every sector of the economy. In general, those businesses that are likely to re-open sooner are those that present lower levels of infection risk and whose work cannot be performed remotely. We have also evaluated risk mitigation strategies to minimize the chance that any infection will spread at the workplace. Within each phase, businesses may reopen in a staggered manner to ensure safety. Finally, as our understanding of this disease improves, our assessments of what is appropriate in each phase could change to match the latest scientific evidence.

We are also establishing working groups to advise the state on how we can safely re-engage child care and summer camps, as well as businesses such as restaurants and bars, travel and tourism, and entertainment venues, so that when it is safe, there are best practices established for how to partially open in a low-risk manner.

The following sections outline our approach for moving between phases as well as details on each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan.

When do we move between phases?

Guided by our public health experts, we are carefully evaluating the best available data to understand the degree of risk and readiness in Michigan. We are complementing that analysis with an understanding of the on-the-ground contextual realities. This comprehensive assessment is a critical input into whether we are prepared to move to the next phase and – just as importantly – whether the disease is surging and we need to adjust our approach.

It is crucial that we monitor the impact of each set of re-engagement activities before moving into the next phase. New transmission can take some time to become visible, and we need to understand any impact of previous re-engagement activities on new disease spread before evaluating a transition to the next stage. As we move into later phases, or if our progress stalls out, it may take longer to move from one phase to another.

Furthermore, it is important to evaluate indicators together: even though some may point to a lower level of risk, others may not. For example, if cases are declining but the health system does not have capacity to address a sudden uptick in cases, the degree of overall risk may still be high.

We will also examine whether different regions within Michigan may be at different phases. That inquiry, too, must be holistic: a region with a low rate of infection may have limited hospital capacity, for example, which puts it at relatively greater risk if an outbreak occurs. Where appropriate, however, regional tailoring makes sense for a state as large and diverse as ours.

Examples of the evidence reviewed for each of the three questions is described below:

A. Is the epidemic growing, flattening, or declining?

Evidence analyzed includes:

- **The number of new cases per million:** low levels of new cases can suggest limited continued transmission; high levels of new cases can suggest continued transmission activity.

- **Trends in new daily cases:** sustained decreases may suggest that there has not been new takeoff of the disease; increases would provide concern that there has been new takeoff.

- **% positive tests:** if testing levels are high, a low proportion of positive tests is further evidence of declining spread, and also suggests that we have a good understanding of the state of the epidemic. If there is a high proportion of positive tests, it could suggest further disease spread, or that we have a poor understanding of the true extent of the epidemic.

B. Does our health system have the capacity to address current needs as well as a potential increase, should new cases emerge?

Evidence analyzed includes:

- **Hospital capacity:** if hospitals are able to surge to accommodate a higher case load, it suggests that, if a small uptick in new cases occurred during additional re-engagement, our health system would not be overwhelmed. If hospitals are not able to surge in this way, any new case spread could threaten our health system.
- **PPE availability:** if hospitals have sufficient PPE to manage increased caseloads, it suggests health system capability to handle a small uptick in new cases.

C. Are our testing and tracing efforts sufficient to monitor the epidemic and control its spread?

Evidence analyzed includes:

- **Testing capacity:** if we are able to ensure that the individuals at risk in each re-engagement phase have access to testing when needed, we will be able to give individuals the information they need to stay safe and, at the same time, allow us to closely track the impact of re-engagement activities on our case growth. If we do not have this testing capacity, it will be harder to give our people and our decision-makers the information they need.
- **Tracing and containment effectiveness:** if we are able to quickly follow up on any newly identified cases and associated contacts, and if those individuals effectively self-isolate, we can more successfully contain any new increase in disease spread. Otherwise, transmission is likely to be higher, increasing our risk.

As new guidance continues to be provided by the CDC and other public health experts, our assessment will adjust to be continually informed by the best available science.

PHASE **1** : UNCONTROLLED GROWTH

What does it look like

The number of daily new cases increases by a constant rate every day, which leads to an increasingly accelerating case curve. If a community remains in this phase for an extended period of time, healthcare facilities could quickly be overwhelmed. Because unmitigated behavior contributes to the exponential growth, communities can slow the growth rate and exit this phase by introducing social distancing practices and wearing masks when in public.

What work can we do

What do we need to do to stay safe

Businesses and organizations

Only work that is necessary to protect or sustain life will be permitted

- **Retail:** Limited to grocery stores and other critical retail (e.g., pharmacies)
- **Public Transportation:** Permitted
- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for take-out, delivery and drive-through only
- **Manufacturing:** Critical manufacturing only
- **Construction:** Only permitted for critical infrastructure projects
- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted
- **Offices:** Closed to all non-critical workers during this phase
- **Education & Child Care:** Remote learning in K-12 and higher educaion, child care for critical workers

Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from others when outdoors / in public
- **Face coverings:** Required
- **Gatherings:** Not permitted
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Walking, hiking, biking permitted
- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance
- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

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PHASE **2** : PERSISTENT SPREAD

What does it look like

This phase occurs after the Uncontrolled Growth phase, but when the epidemic is still expanding in the community. There are still high case levels, but the growth rate might gradually decrease. Within this phase, the epidemic is widespread in a community and source of infection is more difficult to trace. Even though the growth rate of new cases is decreasing, high volumes of infected individuals mean that health systems could become overwhelmed, leading to higher mortality rates. During this phase, it is important to maintain social distancing practices in order to slow the spread to a level that health systems can handle as they are continuing to build capacity.

What work can we do

What do we need to do to stay safe

Businesses and organizations

Only work that is necessary to protect or sustain life will be permitted

- **Retail:** Limited to grocery stores and other critical retail (e.g., pharmacies), plus curbside or delivery for nonessential retail
- **Public Transportation:** Permitted
- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for take-out, delivery and drive-through only
- **Manufacturing:** Critical manufacturing only
- **Construction:** Only permitted for critical infrastructure projects
- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted
- **Offices:** Closed to all non-critical workers during this phase
- **Education & Child Care:** Remote learning in K-12 and higher education, child care for critical workers

Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from other when outdoors / in public
- **Face coverings:** Required
- **Gatherings:** Not permitted
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Walking, hiking, biking permitted. Additional recreation allowed, including golfing and motorboating
- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance
- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

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PHASE **3** : FLATTENING

What does it look like

This phase occurs when daily new cases and deaths remain relatively constant over a time period. Often, this occurs because communities have started to use social distancing practices and transmission rates have fallen to manageable levels. Because new cases are not constantly increasing, health system capacity has time to expand to epidemic needs and is not typically overwhelmed. During this phase, testing and contact tracing efforts are ramped up statewide. To prevent each infected individual from spreading the virus unchecked, rapid case investigation, contact tracing, and containment practices are necessary within a community.

What work can we do

What do we need to do to stay safe

Businesses and organizations

Non-critical businesses that pose lower risk of infection are able to open with increased safety measures during this phase:

- **Retail:** Limited to grocery stores and other critical retail (e.g., pharmacies), plus curbside or delivery for nonessential retail
- **Public Transportation:** Permitted
- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for take-out, delivery and drive-through only
- **Manufacturing:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Construction:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted
- **Offices:** Closed to all non-critical workers
- **Education & Child Care:** Remote learning in K-12 and higher education, child care for critical workers and anyone resuming work activities
- **Outdoor work:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from other when outdoors / in public
- **Face coverings:** Required
- **Gatherings:** Not permitted
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Walking, hiking, biking, golfing, boating permitted
- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance
- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

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PHASE **4** : IMPROVING

This phase occurs when the number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high. When in the Improving phase, most new outbreaks are quickly identified, traced, and contained due to robust testing infrastructure and rapid contact tracing. Health system capacity can typically handle these new outbreaks, and therefore case fatality rate does not rise above typical levels. Though a community might be in a declining phase, the overall number of infected individuals still indicate the need for distancing to stop transmission and move to the next phase.

Businesses and organizations

Most business and organizations will be open throughout this phase under strict safety measures. These include:

- **Retail:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines (e.g., limited capacity)
- **Public Transportation:** Permitted
- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for take-out, delivery and drive-through only
- **Manufacturing:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Construction:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted
- **Offices:** Open (remote work still required where feasible)
- **Education:** Remote learning in K-12 and higher education, summer programs in small groups
- **Outdoor work:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from other when outdoors / in public
- **Face coverings:** Required
- **Gatherings:** Limited to small groups with social distancing
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Walking, hiking, biking, golfing, boating permitted. Activities permitted in small groups with social distancing
- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance
- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

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PHASE **5** : CONTAINING

What does it look like

During the Containing phase, new cases and deaths continue to decrease for an additional period of time. At this point, the number of active cases has reached a point where infection from other members of the community is less common. With widespread testing, positivity rates often fall much lower than earlier phases. Rapid case investigation, contact tracing, and containment strategies cause new cases to continue to fall. However, if distancing and other risk mitigation efforts are not continued, infections could begin to grow again because a permanent solution to the epidemic has not yet been identified.

What work can we do

What do we need to do to stay safe

Businesses and organizations

Most business and organizations will be open throughout this phase under strict safety measures

- **Retail:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines (e.g., limited capacity)

- **Public Transportation:** Permitted

- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for dine-in with additional safety measures and guidelines

- **Manufacturing:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

- **Construction:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted

- **Offices:** Open with additional safety measures and guidelines

- **Education:** Live instruction in K-12 and higher education

- **Outdoor work:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from other when outdoors / in public

- **Face coverings:** Required wherever possible

- **Gatherings:** Incrased but still limited-sized groups with social distancing

- **Outdoor Recreation:** All outdoor recreation allowed

- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance

- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

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PHASE **6** : POST-PANDEMIC

What does it look like

Reaching this phase would mean that community spread is not expected to return, because of sufficient community immunity and availability of treatment. Because of this, the number of infected individuals falls to nearly zero and the community does not typically experience this strain of the epidemic returning. All areas of the economy reopen, and gatherings of all sizes resume.

What work can we do

What do we need to do to stay safe

Businesses and organizations

All businesses and organizations open with some lasting safety requirements

Personal and social

Minimal to no lasting limitations on personal and/or social activities

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CONTROLLING SPREAD IN THE WORKPLACE

There are best practices workplaces should follow, with different levels of importance depending on the industry. The proper implementation of these best practices will mitigate risk in the workplace and allow for a safe and sustained return to work. If workplaces fail to follow some or all of these guidelines, it may curb the state-wide progress toward the revitalization phase and result in a re-instating of stricter social limitations.

These best practices fall into five categories:

A. Access control: Implementing best practices to quickly identify and catalogue potential introductions of COVID-19 into the workplace

- Daily symptom diaries (mandatory questionnaires self-attesting to symptoms and contacts)
- On-site temperature checks
- Rapid diagnostic testing protocols
- Intake procedures for visitors
- Guidelines for delivery areas

B. Social distancing: Minimizing levels of close contact within the workplace to limit the spread of COVID-19 among workers

- Remote work (standards for who can work in person, social distancing guidelines for work from home)
- Restrictions on common instances of non-essential close contact (e.g., crowded conference rooms, cafeterias)
- Restriction on in-person meeting size
- Physical barriers between workspaces

C. Sanitation / Hygiene: Increasing both the frequency and vigor of common cleaning practices as well as implementing new ones to reduce the amount of time COVID-19 can live on surfaces

- Frequent disinfection / cleaning (facilities and equipment)
- Local exhaust ventilation
- HEPA filters on HVAC units
- Availability of hand-washing facilities
- Restrictions on shared tooling / machinery

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D. PPE: Ensuring all employees have access to personal protective equipment to keep them from both contracting and transmitting the COVID-19 virus

- Masks to be worn whenever workers cannot consistently maintain six-feet of separation

- Gloves as necessary

- Face shields as necessary

E. Contact tracing / Isolation: Designing and imparting to employees important procedures and protocols on what occurs if an employee is suspected to have and/ or diagnosed with COVID-19

- Isolation protocols

- Notification protocols (HR, first responders, government authorities)

- Investigation standards

- Facility cleaning / shutdown procedure

- Quarantine and return-to-work guidelines