

**Add-on Item
for Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

General Business:

24. **ADD-ON** - Status Report and Recommendations on the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*
(County Administrator/ County Administration)

This document distributed September 28, 2020.

**Leon County
Board of County Commissioners**

Notes for Agenda Item #24

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

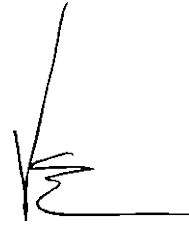
Agenda Item #24

September 29, 2020

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: Status Report and Recommendations on the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*



Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Andrew Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item provides a status report on the Governor's execution of State of Florida Executive Order 20-244 initiating Phase 3 of the State's re-opening plan (Attachment #1), issued on September 25, 2020, which allowed all businesses throughout the state to re-open immediately. Accordingly, this item also provides recommendations regarding the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* and seeks any additional policy direction the Board may wish to provide with respect to Leon County's re-opening of operations, programs, and services.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Direct the County Administrator to maintain Phase 2 of the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* for County operations, programs, and services.

Report and Discussion

Background:

This agenda item provides a status report on the Governor's execution of State of Florida Executive Order 20-244 initiating Phase 3 of the State's re-opening plan (Attachment #1), issued on September 25, 2020, which allowed all businesses throughout the state to re-open with no restrictions immediately. Accordingly, this item also provides a discussion and recommendations regarding the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* (Attachment #2) and seeks any additional policy direction the Board may wish to provide with respect to Leon County's re-opening of operations, programs, and services. As discussed in greater detail below, the health metrics (or "gating criteria") provided in local, state, and federal re-opening plans that are used to determine whether and when to move to subsequent phases of re-opening have not yet been fully met in Leon County. Also, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend social distancing, face coverings, and other mitigative measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, and there remains no vaccine for this highly infectious virus at this time. As such, this agenda item recommends that operations, programs, and services administered by Leon County Government remain in Phase 2, while all other provisions in the County's re-opening plan applicable to individuals, businesses, and community facilities will transition to Phase 3, as required by the Governor's execution of State of Florida Executive Order 20-244.

Previously, on April 29, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-112, implementing an "initial phase one" for re-opening Florida. On April 30, the County Administrator provided the Board with Leon County's Plan for Re-opening during Phase 1. This was done to ensure Leon County's consistency with the Governor's Executive Order, as well as the consistency of vital health, welfare, and safety emergency communications to citizens from both the state and local level. On May 15, the Governor held a press conference to announce a "full Phase 1," the next steps of the state's re-opening plan, which were formalized in Executive Order 20-123. At the May 21, 2020 Board of County Commissioners special meeting, the Board accepted the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*, which provides for a gradual, phased approach to safely re-opening our community, consistent with federal guidance, the Governor's statewide Executive Orders, and expert public health recommendations. The County's plan was developed in order to provide community members a better understanding of what to expect as the country and the state transitioned from strict physical distancing to "re-opening phases." As such, each phase of the plan includes provisions related to individuals, businesses, and community facilities as well as provisions related to the planned restoration of Leon County operations, programs, and services.

On June 3, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-139 initiating Phase 2 of the state's re-opening plan, with the exception of Palm Beach County (which was authorized by Executive Order 20-214 to begin Phase 2 on September 4) and Broward and Miami-Dade Counties (which were authorized by Executive Order 20-223 to begin Phase 2 on September 11). During a press conference announcing the Phase 2 implementation, the Governor presented the state's continued downward-trending gating health criteria (new cases, hospitalizations, positivity rates, ventilator use, etc.) as well as the significant expansion of testing throughout the state. Governor DeSantis'

Phase 2 re-opening, which was also reflected in Leon County's re-opening plan, implemented the following provisions related to businesses and individuals:

- Restaurants were authorized to allow bar-top seating with appropriate social distancing and continue operating at 50 percent capacity indoors;
- Bars and pubs were authorized to operate at 50 percent capacity inside and full capacity outside with appropriate social distancing;
- Retail establishments were authorized to operate at full capacity with responsible social distancing and sanitization protocols;
- Gyms were authorized to operate at full capacity with appropriate social distancing and frequent sanitization;
- Entertainment businesses, including but not limited to movie theaters, concert houses, auditoriums, playhouses, bowling alleys and arcades, were authorized to operate at 50 percent capacity with appropriate social distancing and sanitization protocols;
- Personal services businesses, including but not limited to tattoo parlors, acupuncture establishments, tanning salons and massage establishments, were authorized to operate while adhering to guidance from the Florida Department of Health;
- Individuals over 65 or with underlying medical conditions were strongly encouraged to avoid crowds and take measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19;
- All individuals that work in long-term care facilities were encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 on a routine basis and
- All persons in Florida were encouraged to avoid congregating in groups larger than 50.

As provided in the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*, County offices which offer direct services began to accommodate walk-in clients during Phase 2 with physical distancing measures in accordance with public health guidance. This included Development Support and Environmental Management, Intervention and Detention Alternatives, Veteran Services, and Housing Services. Leon County Public Library facilities also re-opened to the public at 50 percent capacity and continued to offer curbside pick-up and drop-off services for print and other media materials, and the County's dog parks re-opened to the public.

Analysis:

The Analysis section of this agenda item provides an overview of the provisions of Executive Order 20-244 and the state's Phase 3 re-opening plan as well as recommendations regarding Leon County operations, programs, and services as provided in the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*. Finally, this item seeks any additional policy direction or community guidance the Board may wish to provide relative to the re-opening of Leon County operations, programs, and services.

Executive Order 20-244:

As indicated above, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-244 on September 25, 2020, initiating Phase 3 of the state's re-opening plan effective immediately. Specifically, the Executive Order does the following:

- Section 1: supersedes and eliminates any and all restrictions placed upon businesses by previous Executive Orders
- Section 2: pre-empts any COVID-19 emergency ordinance from preventing an individual from working or operating a business
- Section 3: provides that local governments may not restrict occupancy in restaurants or bars further than 50% capacity, and that any local government's COVID-19 emergency order that limits a restaurant to less than 100% of its indoor capacity must quantify the economic impact of the order on those restaurants and explain why the order is necessary for public health
- Section 4: suspends the collection of fines and penalties associated with COVID-19 enforced upon individuals.

Of note, Section 4 of the Executive Order affects Leon County Emergency Ordinance No. 20-15 which required all persons in Leon County to wear a face covering while inside a business establishment unless the individual qualifies for an exception enumerated in the Emergency Ordinance. In light of Emergency Order 20-244, the face covering requirements included in the County's Emergency Ordinance remain in effect; however, any penalties provided in the Ordinance are suspended by the Executive Order. Of note, the Board's September 29 meeting agenda includes a separate agenda item which provides an overview of various COVID-19 mitigation measures and legal analysis related to the County's face covering emergency ordinance and options for enforcing social distancing and face covering requirements at large gatherings.

As required by Executive Order 20-244, the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* related to businesses, etc., will reflect Phase 3 of the State's re-opening plan. However, unless pre-empted, the Board has discretion over the phasing of the plan related to County government operations, programs, and services. As such, and based on the following analysis, staff recommends that County government operations, programs, and services remain in Phase 2 as described in the plan.

Public Health Benchmarks and Re-opening of Leon County Services and Programs:

As discussed in the Background section of this agenda item, the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* includes provisions related to the planned restoration of Leon County operations, programs, and services. Consistent with the plan, the County continues to focus on minimizing direct interaction and focusing on social distancing as recommended by public health experts.

At this time, the public health gating criteria provided in local, state, and federal re-opening plans that are used to determine whether and when to move to subsequent phases of re-opening have not yet been fully met in Leon County. The State of Florida's re-opening plan, based on earlier guidelines issued by the White House and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides specific public health benchmarks that should all be reached and maintained over a two-week period prior to beginning a phased re-opening and also prior to advancing from one phase to the next. As provided in the plan, if the state demonstrates consistent success in reaching these benchmarks, the guidelines contemplate advancing to the next phase of re-opening. These gating criteria guide the *Leon County COVID-19 Response & Re-opening Plan* as well, and are listed below followed by a discussion of each one:

Table 1: Current Status of Gating Criteria for Re-opening in Leon County

Gating Criteria for Re-opening (to be reached and maintained over a two-week period):	Currently Met in Leon County?
Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses, AND Downward trajectory of COVID-19-like illnesses (fever, cough, shortness of breath)	No
Downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases, OR Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests (flat or increasing volume of tests)	Yes
Capability to treat all patients without triggering surge capacity, AND Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing	Yes

As indicated above, Leon County currently meets and exceeds the two benchmarks related to hospital capacity and testing. The following graphs illustrate the latest available data from the Florida Department of Health tracking the other four trend-based health metrics in Leon County, summarized as follows:

- Figure 1 shows the number of emergency department visits over the past several weeks by patients exhibiting flu-like illnesses. This number has increased over past two weeks from 10 visits during the week of September 6 to 24 visits during the week of September 20.
- Figure 2 shows the number of emergency department visits over the past several weeks by patients exhibiting COVID-like illnesses. This number has decreased over the past two weeks from 50 visits during the week of September 6 to 41 visits during the week of September 20.
- Figure 3 shows the number of new COVID-19 cases documented each week. This number has decreased over the past three weeks, from a high of 1,483 cases during the week of August 30 to 487 during the week of September 20.

- Figure 4 shows the percent of COVID-19 tests that were positive during each week. This percentage has decreased over the past three weeks, from a positivity rate of 17.66% during the week of August 30 to 5.42% during the week of September 20.



Figure 1: Emergency Department Visits with Influenza-Like Illness

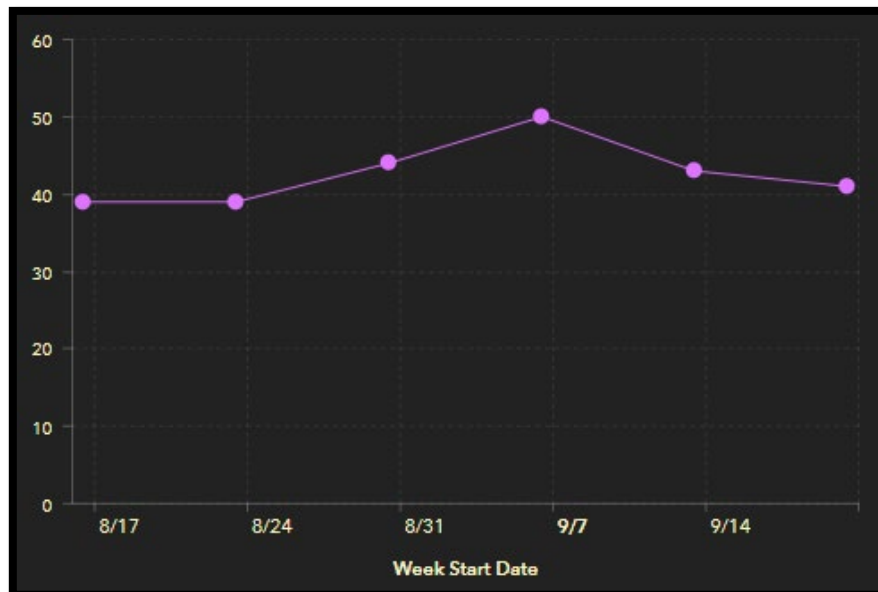


Figure 2: Emergency Department Visits with COVID-Like Illness



Figure 3: Documented New Cases

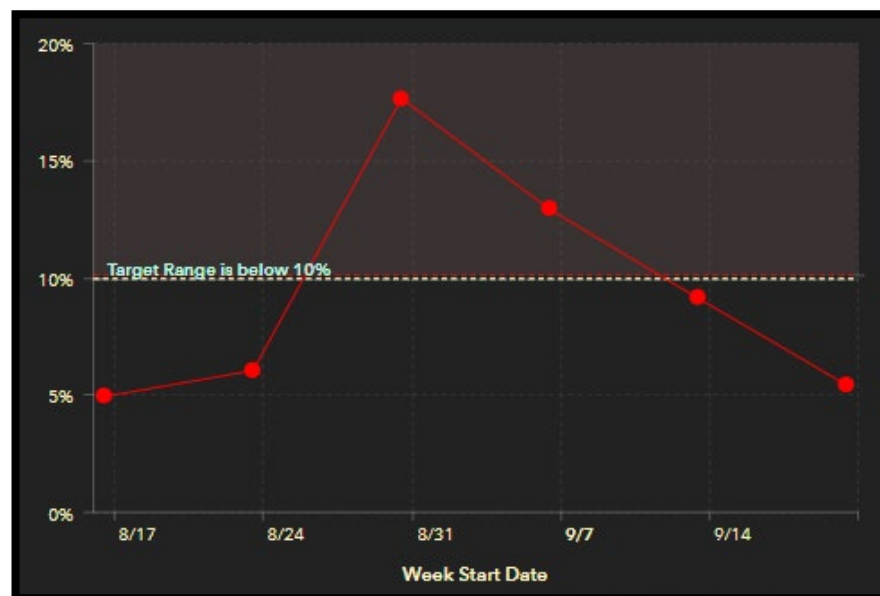


Figure 4: Percent Positive for Laboratory Testing

In addition to the public health gating criteria discussed above, the latest guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Attachment #3) continues to indicate that best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the coronavirus. This guidance specifically continues to recommend physical distancing of six feet, regular hand washing or sanitizing, regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, and wearing a face covering when around others. In addition, expert public health guidance, including from the CDC and Johns Hopkins University, has indicated that a second wave of the novel coronavirus may be far more severe than the current wave, complicated by the annual influenza season which occurs in fall and winter. The risk of transmission increases when people spend more time together indoors, which is more common in the fall and winter months. Johns Hopkins University also states that if the coronavirus surges in the fall and the flu season is severe, the combination could put hospitals and patients at further risk.

In consideration of the gating criteria discussed above and the continued strong public health guidance issued by the CDC and other health experts, this item recommends maintaining Leon County Government operations, programs, and services in Phase 2 as provided in the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*. For reference, Table 2 below provides a side-by-side comparison of County operations, programs, and services in Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Table 2: Comparison of Leon County Government operations, programs, and services in Phase 2 and Phase 3 under the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*

		<u>Phase 2</u>	<u>Phase 3</u>
Libraries	Facility occupancy	50%	100%
	Programming & community rooms	Closed	Open
	Curbside pick-up and drop-off	Yes	Yes
	Online services	Yes	Yes
Parks and Recreation	Greenways and trails	Open	Open
	Dog parks	Open	Open
	Campgrounds	Open	Open
	Cross-country	Open	Open
	Tennis courts	Open	Open
	Active recreation facilities (ball fields, basketball courts)	Open to individuals and groups less than 10	Open
	Community centers	Closed	Open
	Playgrounds	Closed	Open
Development Support and Environmental Management	Walk-in services	Yes	Yes
	Appointment-based services	Yes	Yes
	Online services	Yes	Yes
Human Services and Community Partnerships	Walk-in services	Yes	Yes
	Appointment-based services	Yes	Yes
Intervention and Detention Alternatives	Drug and alcohol testing	Yes	Yes
	Face-to-face case management	Yes	Yes
Solid Waste	Household hazardous waste, tires, and yard debris drop off and free mulch at the Solid Waste Facility	Yes	Yes
	Household hazardous waste collection events at Public Works	Suspended	Resume
Tourism	Concerts and large community events	Suspended	May hold concerts/events with restrictions
All Leon County Government Operations	Commission meetings	Virtual	May resume*
	Walk-in services	Yes	Yes
	Telecommuting	Maintain where possible	If medically necessary
	Staff, workgroup, advisory committee meetings	Virtual/phone teleconference	In-person

* Dependent upon Governor continuing to authorize non-quorum requirements for in-person meetings.

As shown in the table, most Leon County operations, programs, and services are currently open in Phase 2. The services that are currently suspended or limited (such as library capacity, certain park facilities, and public events) are those that may involve close interaction among groups of people. Accordingly, these services are suspended or limited in Phase 2 in order to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and are contemplated as part of a full re-opening during Phase 3. Should the Board wish to remain in Phase 2 for Leon County operations, programs, and services, the County would continue to discourage large public events and gatherings where appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained, continue to suspend concerts at the Capital Cascades Amphitheater, maintain the current 50% occupancy limit at Leon County Public Library facilities, and playgrounds, community centers, and active recreation facilities would remain closed.

As discussed earlier in this agenda item, the County's re-opening plan contemplates advancing from one phase of re-opening to the next based upon a clear downward trajectory over a 14-day period of the public health indicators discussed above. As such, under this option, the County would continue to monitor the public health gating criteria discussed above and bring back recommendations to the Board for further re-opening when these indicators demonstrate clear downward trends over a 14-day period.

Finally, at this time, the Executive Order that suspended the requirement for a physical quorum to be present at local government meetings (Executive Order 20-69) remains in effect through September 30; however, it is not clear whether the Governor will extend this provision further. Should the Governor allow this provision to expire as currently scheduled, the County would work with Constitutional and Judicial Officers to develop a plan for re-opening the Courthouse prior to the October 13 Board meeting. In this instance, in-person meetings of the Board of County Commissioners would resume starting with the October 13, 2020 meeting, and additionally, the County would limit its use of telecommuting for County staff throughout the organization except where necessary to ensure the health of employees with underlying medical conditions.

In conclusion, the Governor's execution of State of Florida Executive Order 20-244 initiating Phase 3 of the State's re-opening plan (Attachment #1), issued on September 25, 2020, requires full compliance with respect to the immediate re-opening of businesses throughout the state with no state-level restrictions. While executive Order 20-244 also suspends the collection of fines and penalties associated with the County's face covering ordinance, the County ordinance remains in effect. However, unless pre-empted, the Board also has discretion over the phasing of the plan related to County government operations, programs, and services. As such, and based on the analysis contained in this item, staff recommends that the County government operations, programs, and services remain in Phase 2 as described in the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*. In anticipation of a potential second wave of the virus, which could coincide with the annual flu season, the County continues to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus throughout the community through the County's face covering ordinance, funding an extensive expansion of testing and contact tracing through the Leon CARES program, ongoing regional coordinating efforts with emergency management and critical public health stakeholders, distribution of free face coverings to the public and businesses, and continued aggressive public information health messaging. As such, the recommendation presented in this item and all future staff recommendations will continue to be guided by expert public health guidance.

Options:

1. Direct the County Administrator to maintain Phase 2 of the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* for County operations, programs, and services.
2. Provide direction to the County administrator on revisions to Phase 2 of the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* for County operations, programs, and services.
3. Direct the County Administrator to implement Phase 3 of the of the *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan* for County operations, programs, and services.
4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachments:

1. Executive Order 20-244
2. *Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan*
3. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance, September 21, 2020

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-244

(Phase 3; Right to Work; Business Certainty; Suspension of Fines.)

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-112 initiating Phase 1 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-123 for Full Phase 1; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-139 initiating Phase 2 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery.

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has suffered economic harm as a result of COVID-19-related closures, exacerbating the impacts of the State of Emergency, and Floridians should not be prohibited by local governments from working or operating a business.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order:

Section 1. Phase 3

This order supersedes and eliminates any and all restrictions of Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123 and 20-139, as well as Executive Orders 20-192, 20-214 and 20-223, except as modified herein.

Section 2. Right to Work and Operate a Business

No COVID-19 emergency ordinance may prevent an individual from working or from operating a business. This preemption is consistent with Executive Order 20-92.

Section 3. Restaurants

Pursuant to Chapter 252, including sections 252.36(5)(b), (g) and (h), Florida Statutes, and in order to safeguard the economic vitality of this state, any restaurant may operate as set forth below.

- A. Restaurants, including any establishment with a food service license, may not be limited by a COVID-19 emergency order by any local government to less than fifty percent (50%) of their indoor capacity. If a restaurant is limited to less than one hundred percent (100%) of its indoor capacity, such COVID-19 emergency order must on its face satisfy the following:
 - i. quantify the economic impact of each limitation or requirement on those restaurants; and
 - ii. explain why each limitation or requirement is necessary for public health.
- B. Nothing in this order preempts or supersedes a non-COVID-19 municipal or county order.

Section 4. Suspension of COVID-19-related Individual Fines and Penalties

This order, consistent with Executive Order 20-92, suspends the collection of fines and penalties associated with COVID-19 enforced upon individuals.

Section. 5 Effective Date

This order is effective immediately.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 25th day of September, 2020.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



Leon County COVID-19 Response & Re-opening Plan

A ROADMAP TO PROTECT, MITIGATE, AND RECOVER

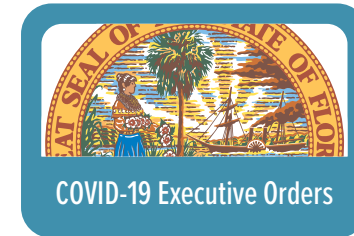
CONSISTENT WITH



Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.



PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY



Publication Date August 7, 2020



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The Leon County Re-opening Plan provides a framework and guidance for the community to both navigate and plan for the phases of re-opening in a manner that minimizes the risk of resurgence and protects the most vulnerable from COVID-19. As part of this phased approach, the Re-opening Plan also details the planned restoration of County services, operations, and facilities for public use which will be achieved as the County organization continues to implement the proper procedures and protocols in its role as an employer. The Leon County Re-opening Plan seeks to provide greater specificity about how the state's plan applies to Leon County individuals and employers, as well as a roadmap of what we might expect over the longer-term as we deal with the health threats and economic disruption of a global pandemic, locally.

The County's Re-opening Plan follows Federal guidance included in the Opening Up America Again guidelines published by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Re-Open Florida Task Force Plan for Florida's Recovery. Federal guidelines explicitly call for a phased approach to re-opening using the health-related gating criteria developed by the CDC to be implemented **on a statewide or county-by-county basis at the Governor's discretion**. By Executive Order, Governor DeSantis used his discretion to develop a statewide re-opening plan utilizing

the CDC gating criteria and directed that the "initial Phase 1" of Florida's re-opening begin on May 4, 2020. On May 15, 2020, the Governor initiated the next steps under "full Phase 1".

The County's Re-opening Plan reflects the Governor's Executive Order (#20-123) for full Phase 1 and will be updated to reflect the Governor's future phases. However, given all the uncertainty around COVID 19, this plan includes projections and working assumptions for subsequent phases. These projections and assumptions related to future phases are intended only to help individuals and employers in our community know what we might expect in future phases. Similarly, the protocols and practices within each phase of the plan will be adjusted based upon changing conditions, future Executive Orders by the Governor, and direction from the Leon County Board of County Commissioners.

At the onset of the pandemic and activation of the Leon County Emergency Operations Center, the County's initial objectives focused on slowing the spread of the infection, 'flattening the curve' to ensure our local hospital capacity would not be overwhelmed, and protecting the needs of our most vulnerable populations. This included an aggressive public information campaign, addressing rising food insecurity, activating hospital surge plans, PPE distribution, and standing up test sites. As we transition from strict

physical distancing to a gradual phased re-opening and look ahead, the ongoing emphasis is to minimize the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence in our community. This necessitates a "new normal" for nearly every aspect of our lives including our workplaces, educational institutions, places of worship, and leisure activities.

Over the past two months, our community has continuously demonstrated its vigilance in better understanding the risks associated with the novel virus, adherence for the guidance issued by local health officials, and compliance with the Safer-At-Home orders. COVID-19 and the implementation of the County's phased re-opening plan will undoubtedly alter our daily routines, public interactions, and the appearance of workplaces and employees.

As we transition into re-opening phases across the nation, state and here locally, it is important to note that at the time of this writing there is no vaccine for the virus, and no therapeutic that reduces morbidity. A phased re-opening, guided by health data, will not only help us recover economically, but may provide the time necessary to control spikes, develop a vaccine and scale its production as we continue to protect lives and begin to reset livelihoods.

For future updates to this plan, see www.LeonCountyFL.gov/COVID19-Reopen.

Guiding Documents

The following documents provide the guidance for the *Leon County COVID-19 Response & Re-opening Plan*. Consistent with federal and state guidance, the County Plan utilizes a phased approach and the CDC gating criteria.

- White House Guidelines for Opening Up America Again
- Governor Ron DeSantis Executive Orders issued in response to COVID-19 (various)
- Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery. Report to Governor DeSantis from the Re-Open Florida Task Force
- Public Health Principles for Phased Re-opening During Covid-19: Guidance for Governors – John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Health Security
- Local declaration of emergency, local orders and relevant County policies



County's Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement



Leon County Emergency Management's COVID-19 coordinating efforts will continue to utilize an Incident Command Structure to activate and engage critical stakeholders in response, mitigation and recovery efforts in the County and region, including (but not limited to):

- Primary Healthcare (Bond, Neighborhood, TPCA, CHP, Capital Medical Society, pediatrics, other primary providers, etc.)
- Long-Term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Assisted Living Facilities
- Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Salvation Army, American Red Cross, etc.)
- First Responders, Paramedics, and Law Enforcement Organizations
- Business and Industry (now transitioned to OEV's Re-Opening Tallahassee-Leon County)
- County / City Incident Command Coordination (with liaisons in the Emergency Operations Center)

- Nearly 200 facilitated phone calls / meetings
- More than 4,000 diverse participants from every discipline



- Homelessness as a Vulnerable Population (Kearney Center, HOPE Community, Big Bend Continuum of Care, etc.)
- Healthcare Surge (TMH, CRMC, Select Specialty, Encompass, FDOH)
- Educational Partners (Leon County Schools, FAMU, FSU, TCC, private schools, etc.)
- Regional Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Statewide Florida Division of Emergency Management
- White House Intergovernmental Affairs (State, Local, and Tribal governments)

Leon County's Community Objectives for Response & Recovery for COVID-19

Initial objectives were established in February 2020 by Leon County Emergency Management in coordination with the Florida Department of Health and will remain in place until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a public health emergency, **conceivably six months to a year or longer.**



Data-driven decision making based on public health benchmarks and trajectories



Slow the spread and mitigate the risk of resurgence of COVID-19 through ongoing planning, coordination, and public health intervention



Protect and preserve the health and safety of vulnerable populations (elderly, homeless, underlying medical conditions, food insecure, etc.)



Locally facilitate and support the State's plan to increase community testing and contact tracing



Support hospitals through healthcare surge planning and resource allocation



Conduct holistic, aggressive public information to educate citizens on public health measures like face mask use, physical distancing, and other resources



Provide State-resourced personal protective equipment to frontline healthcare workers and long-term care facilities



Address rising food insecurity by supporting operations of local and regional food banks and pantries



Re-open in a safe, smart, and measured way in alignment with the State's plan and Governor's Executive Orders



Support communitywide long-term recovery with local, state, and federal resources



Leon County's Phased Approach

Phase 1

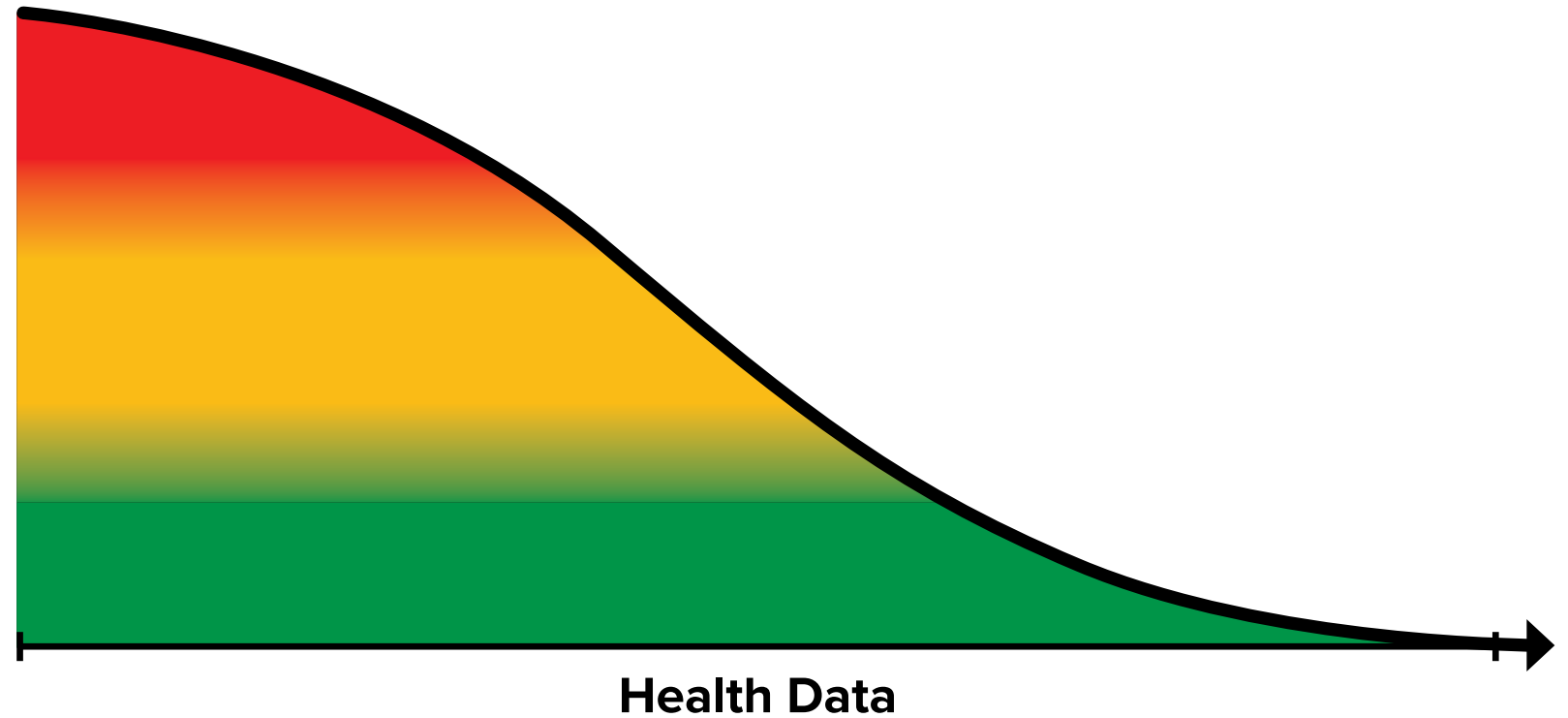
Phase 2

Phase 3



Leon County's *COVID-19 Response & Re-opening Plan* is **consistent with federal and state phasing guidelines**.

Advancement between phases is based on **downward trajectory of public health indicators such as new COVID-19 cases and COVID-like symptoms**.





Gating Criteria

Phased Re-opening Guided by Health Data

State Gating Criteria

The state's gating criteria guide the *Leon County COVID-19 Response & Re-opening Plan*. The state establishes, maintains and determines when the health benchmarks of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step Plan are met. These health benchmarks include:

- Maintaining hospital capacity
- Monitoring COVID-19 test positivity rate
- Number of emergency department visits with influenza-like illness
- Number of emergency department visits with COVID-like illness
- Number of documented new COVID-19 cases
- Percentage positive of tested and rate over time

The Guidelines for Opening up America Again and the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery provide the gating criteria to be satisfied before proceeding to the phased openings. Leon County's local phasing will reflect determinations made at the State level. The gating criteria are conditioned upon downward trajectories in symptoms and cases along with hospital capacity and testing requirements.





Face Covering Requirements

Community Face Covering Requirements



To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health of our community, Leon County approved an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings beginning Thursday, June 25 at 12:01 a.m. As confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise locally and statewide, **the ordinance states that an individual in a business establishment in Leon County must wear a face covering while in that business establishment.**

A **business establishment** means a location with a **roof overhead under which any business is conducted, goods are made or stored or processed or where services are rendered.** The term “business establishment” also includes locations where non-profit, governmental, churches and quasi-governmental entities facilitate public interactions and conduct business, along with passenger vehicles for hire (Uber, Lyft, taxis, etc.), limousines and rental cars. Also, as part of the requirement, **all businesses must post a notice visible to all customers that face coverings are required while indoors.**

For a list of answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** and an example face covering requirement sign for businesses, visit: LeonCountyFL.gov/ei

Facial coverings are not required to be worn by the following persons:

- Persons under the age of six years;
- Persons who have trouble breathing due to a chronic pre-existing condition or individuals with a documented or **demonstrable medical problem.** It is the intent of this provision that those individuals who cannot tolerate a facial covering for a medical, sensory, or any other condition which makes it difficult for them to utilize a facial covering and function in public are not required to wear one;
- **Persons in their private rooms of a lodging establishment,** such as a hotel, motel, or vacation rental—however, face coverings must be worn in all indoor commons areas of said establishment;
- **Persons exercising** while observing at least **six feet of distancing** from another person;
- Restaurant and bar patrons **eating or drinking;**
- Business owners, managers, and employees who are in an area of a business establishment that is not open to customers, patrons, or the public, provided that six feet of distance exists between persons. However, workers preparing food must still wear face coverings.



Guidelines for All Phases

Community Guidelines for All Phases: Individuals



Individuals in the community, throughout all phases of the plan, are encouraged to continue the following practices:

Continue to Practice Good Hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- The County's Emergency Face Covering Ordinance does not require persons to wear face coverings while outdoors. However, the County still does strongly encourage residents to wear face coverings when unable to socially distance.

People Who Feel Sick Should Stay Home

- Do not go to work or school.
- Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.

Community Guidelines for All Phases: Employers

Leon County **employers** are encouraged to develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices, regarding:

- Social distancing and protective equipment
- Temperature checks
- Testing, isolating, and contact tracing
- Sanitation
- Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas
- Business travel

Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow symptomatic people to physically return to work until cleared by a medical provider.

To assist the Florida Department of Health, develop and implement policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID-positive test.



Leon County Government: Standard Operating Procedures



As an employer, Leon County Government has implemented organizational policies that conform to CDC and state guidelines based on current conditions. As we move through this event, current policies and practices can be adjusted based upon changing conditions.

- Arrange and/or limit furniture and seating in gathering spaces per social distancing guidelines (breakrooms, lobbies, conference rooms, etc.)
- Daily temperature checks and screenings for employees upon reporting for work
- Departmental staff shall be responsible for:
 - ▶ Cleaning areas after serving each customer (wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.)
 - ▶ Enhanced cleaning of public spaces in facilities and shared work stations and equipment
- Follow CDC guidance regarding symptomatic employees
- Incorporate engineering controls such as physical barriers where possible
- Informational and directional signage
- Maintain social distancing
- Leon County Government shall comply with the Emergency Face Covering Ordinance.
- Minimize use of shared items (e.g. writing instruments, paper documents, etc.)
- No handshakes, high fives, or other forms of physical contact
- Sanitize fleet vehicles: Drivers wipe down every touch surface when entering the vehicle and when they return it. (CDC Disinfection Protocols & Fleet Policy)



Phase 1

A ROADMAP TO PROTECT, MITIGATE, AND RECOVER

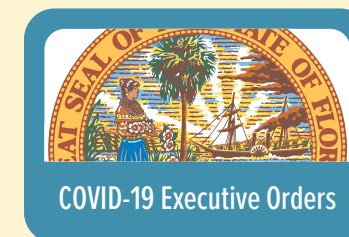
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PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY



Under the Governor's Executive Orders (#20-112, 20-120, 20-123) Leon County's Phase 1 guidelines presented here include guidance for individuals, employers, and Leon County Government. The time between phases may be weeks or months based on the health data gating criteria.

Phase 1:

Community Individuals and Employers

Consistent with Florida's Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery and the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders, the following guidance applies to **individuals** and **employers** in Leon County as amended May 15, 2020 (EO 20-123):

- Visits to **senior living facilities** prohibited.
- **Vulnerable individuals** should avoid close contact with people outside the home.
- **All individuals**, when in public, should maximize physical distance from others.
- **Avoid socializing** in groups of **more than 10 people** in circumstances that do not readily allow for physical distancing.
- **Face masks** are recommended for face-to-face interactions where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Elective surgeries** can resume.
- **Restaurants** may offer outdoor seating with six-foot space between tables and indoor seating at **50% capacity** or a minimum of 6 feet without partitioning.
- **Retail** can operate at **50% of indoor capacity**.
- **Bars** remain **closed**.
- **Gyms** and fitness centers may operate up to **50%** of their occupancy; customers should self-sanitize machines and surfaces after use.
- **Barbershops, cosmetology salons**, and cosmetology specialty salons that adopt appropriate social distancing and precautionary measures as outlined by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- **Schools** remain **distance learning**.
- **Museums** and **libraries** may operate up to **50%** capacity subject to local government approval.
- **Beaches** and **State Parks** are open for **daytime use**.
- **Professional sports** may operate and venues may host training, competitions, events and games.
- **Amusement parks** may submit re-opening plan to the State.
- Requirement to **test all staff at long-term care facilities**.



Phase 1:

Leon County Government Organizational Protocols



As an **employer**, all Leon County departments and divisions will follow state and federal guidance of Phase 1.

ALL DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS:

- Maintain **telecommuting** where possible
- **Stagger shifts** and **lunch breaks**, when feasible, to minimize congregating
- Maintain **online services** and **services by phone**
- Provide services by **appointment** in lieu of walk-in
- Use **Zoom** or **phone conferences** for staff, work group, and advisory committee meetings
- **No non-essential in-person** demonstrations, events, programs, or trainings
- **No non-essential training** and **travel**
- **No volunteers** and **interns** during this phase

During each phase it may be appropriate to open certain County facilities or make additional adjustments to operations. Any decisions should consider the risks of spreading COVID-19, and be made in an effort to mitigate the risk of resurgences, and protect the most vulnerable populations. Prior to re-opening any facilities, plans will be developed to ensure that proper social distancing, personal protective equipment, signage, and sanitation is in place to limit risks.

Phase 1:

Leon County Government Services and Programs



COMMISSION MEETINGS

- Requirement for a **physical quorum** to be present for local government meetings is **suspended**. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology such as telephonic and video conferencing.

LIBRARIES

- Continue to offer **telephone** and **online services** and offer **curbside service** for print and media materials at **all branches** on **normal business days** between 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and at the main library Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Online Services and **by Appointment** – No Walk-ins

County facilities may be identified in multiple phases of the plan, as openings may not occur in the first phase listed. Phasing levels and protocols for each facility will be further defined as appropriate in departmental operational plans.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **Open:** Greenways and trails
- **Closed:** Campgrounds, community centers, playgrounds, active recreation, dog parks

SOLID WASTE

- **Hazardous waste**, tires and yard debris drop off and free mulch pick-up re-open

VACATION RENTALS

- Counties may seek approval for vacation rentals to operate by submitting a written request and county vacation rental safety plan to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS

- General and targeted messaging for phase and audience

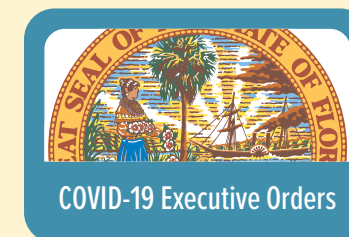
The above policies have been developed to conform to the federal and state guidelines based upon current conditions. As the County moves through each phase, current policies and practices can be adjusted based upon changing conditions.



Phase 2

A ROADMAP TO PROTECT, MITIGATE, AND RECOVER

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Phase 2:

Community Individuals and Employers



Consistent with Florida's Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery and the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders, the following guidance applies to **individuals** and **employers** in Leon County as amended June 3, 2020 (EO 20-139):

- Visits to **senior living facilities** prohibited
- **Vulnerable Individuals** should avoid close contact with people outside the home
- **All individuals** that work in long-term care facilities **should be tested for COVID-19 on a routine basis**
- **All persons** in Florida are encouraged to **avoid congregating in groups larger than 50**
- **Bars, Pubs, Nightclubs** should operate at no more than **50% of building capacity**. On Friday, June 26, by order of the Governor, **the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation suspended the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises** for all vendors licensed for such sale who derive more than 50 percent of gross revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- **Restaurants** should operate at no more than **50% of building capacity**
- **Gyms and Fitness Centers** may operate at full capacity with appropriate social distancing
- State park **overnight facilities** to remain closed
- **Large Venues** (movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys) should operate at no more than **50% capacity**
- **Retail and Personal Services Businesses** (cosmetology salons, barber shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors and massage establishments) may operate while adhering to guidance from the Florida Department of Health

Phase 2:

Leon County Government Services and Programs



As an **employer**, all Leon County departments and divisions will follow state and federal guidance of Phase 2.

ALL DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS:

- Maintain **telecommuting** where possible
- **Stagger shifts** and **lunch breaks**, when feasible, to minimize congregating
- **Use Zoom or phone conferences** for staff, work group, advisory committee meetings
 - ▶ Identify alternate locations to accommodate larger audiences
- Accommodate **walk-in** clients
- **No non-essential in-person** demonstrations, events, programs, or trainings

During each phase it may be appropriate to open certain County facilities or make additional adjustments to operations. Any decisions should consider the risks of spreading COVID-19, and be made in an effort to mitigate the risk of resurgences, and protect the most vulnerable populations. Prior to re-opening any facilities, plans will be developed to ensure that proper social distancing, personal protective equipment, signage, and sanitation is in place to limit risks.

Phase 2:

Leon County Government Services and Programs



As an **employer**, all Leon County departments and divisions will follow state and federal guidance of Phase 2.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

- Requirement for a **physical quorum** to be present for local government meetings is **suspended**. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology such as telephonic and video conferencing.

LIBRARIES

- Maintain **curbside service** for print and media materials at **all branches** and continue to offer online services.
- Open with **limited capacity**
- **Programming** and **community rooms** remain closed

County facilities may be identified in multiple phases of the plan, as openings may not occur in the first phase listed. Phasing levels and protocols for each facility will be further defined as appropriate in departmental operational plans.

INTERVENTION AND DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

Operations as determined by courts and criminal justice operations:

- Resume **drug and alcohol testing**
- Resume face to face **case management** services

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Accommodate **walk-in** clients and continue to offer **online services**

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **Open:** Greenways and trails, dog parks, campgrounds
- **Closed:** Community centers, playgrounds, active recreation

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS

- General and targeted messaging

The above policies have been developed to conform to the federal and state guidelines based upon current conditions. As the County moves through each event, current policies and practices can be adjusted based upon changing conditions.



Phase 3 (PROJECTED)

A ROADMAP TO PROTECT, MITIGATE, AND RECOVER

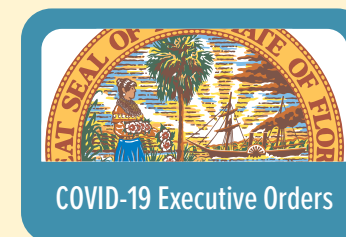
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PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY



Phase 3 will be implemented under future Executive Orders and possible modifications by the Board. The guidelines presented in **Phase 3** are based on **projected assumptions** of what Phase 3 **may include** in the future. The information is based on what federal and state **future plans** anticipate **might occur**. The time between phases may be **weeks** or **months** based on health data gating criteria.

Phase 3 :

Community Individuals and Employers

With Phase 3, the community will begin the “**new normal**” phase. Phase 3 is based on recommendations of the Re-Open Florida task Force. Phase 3 will be implemented under **future Executive Orders** and **possible modifications** by the Board. The guidelines presented in Phase 3 are based on **projected assumptions** of what Phase 3 **may include in the future** and what the community **might expect**. At the current time, the information is based on what federal and **state future plans anticipate might occur**.

- **Vulnerable Individuals** can resume public interactions but should practice physical distancing and wear face coverings.
- **Non-vulnerable Populations** should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments
- **Non-Essential Travel** may continue.
- The following establishments should operate at **full capacity** with adequate sanitation practices and limited **social distancing protocols**:
 - ▶ **Bars, Pubs, Nightclubs**
 - ▶ **Restaurants**
 - ▶ **Gyms** and Fitness Centers
 - ▶ **Large Venues** (movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys)
 - ▶ Retail and **Personal Services Businesses** (cosmetology salons, barber shops and nail salons)
- **State Parks** will **fully re-open** including overnight accommodations
- **Vacation Rentals** should resume **normal operations**
- **Large Sporting Events** should consider reducing capacity with **limited social distancing protocols**.

*Phase 3 is based on the recommendations of the Re-open Florida Task Force. Implementation to be determined by future Executive Orders from the Governor and may be modified by the Board.



Phase 3:

Leon County Government Services and Programs

With Phase 3, Leon County Government will begin the **new normal** phase which could last **6-months to a year or more**. Phase 3 will be implemented under **future Executive Orders** and **possible modifications** by the Board. The guidelines presented in Phase 3 are based on **projected assumptions** of what Phase 3 **may include in the future** and what the community **might expect**. The information is based on what federal and **state future plans anticipate might occur**.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

- **Local Government Meetings** should return to **in-person quorum** and public participation with accommodation for vulnerable populations.

ALL DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS:

- Resume normal operations
- Maintain social distancing measures
- Maintain **telecommuting where appropriate or medically necessary**

- **May** hold **concerts** and **events** with restrictions
- Continue to consider **vulnerable populations** when delivering services or planning county sponsored activities and events

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **Open:** Greenways and trails, campgrounds, dog parks
- **May open:** Community centers, playgrounds, active recreation with restrictions

LIBRARIES

- **Programming** and **community rooms** **may** re-open with restrictions

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS

- General and targeted messaging for phase and audience

During each phase it may be appropriate to open certain County facilities or make additional adjustments to operations. Any decisions should consider the risks of spreading COVID-19, and be made in an effort to mitigate the risk of resurgences, and protect the most vulnerable populations. Prior to re-opening any facilities, plans will be developed to ensure that proper social distancing, personal protective equipment, signage, and sanitation is in place to limit risks.

County facilities may be identified in multiple phases of the plan, as openings may not occur in the first phase listed. Phasing levels and protocols for each facility will be further defined as appropriate in departmental operational plans.

The above policies have been developed to conform to the federal and state guidelines based upon current conditions. As the County moves through each event, current policies and practices can be adjusted based upon changing conditions.





Visit **LeonCountyFL.gov/COVID19-Reopen**
for Updates

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

[MENU >](#)

How COVID-19 Spreads How It Spreads

Updated Sept. 21, 2020

[Print](#)

A draft version of proposed changes to these recommendations was posted in error to the agency's official website. CDC is currently updating its recommendations regarding airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Once this process has been completed, the update language will be posted.

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. We are still learning about how the virus spreads and the severity of illness it causes.

Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

The virus spreads easily between people

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious, like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, which means it goes from person-to-person without stopping.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people. Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggests that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious. In general, **the more closely a person interacts with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.**

The virus may be spread in other ways

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by **touching a surface or object that has the virus on it** and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about how this virus spreads.

Spread between animals and people

- At this time, the risk of COVID-19 spreading **from animals to people** is considered to be low. Learn about [COVID-19 and pets and other animals](#).
- It appears that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread **from people to animals** in some situations. CDC is aware of a small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. Learn what you should do [if you have pets](#).

Protect yourself and others

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.

- [Maintain good social distance](#) (about 6 feet). This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- [Routinely clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [mask](#) when around others.

Learn more about what you can do to [protect yourself and others](#).

More Information

[ASL Video Series: How does COVID-19 Spread?](#)