

Hodes & Landy Guidance NYS's Re-Opening

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- National & International Travel Restrictions -

Updated 1/3/21

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCED NEW GUIDELINES ALLOWING OUT-OF-STATE TRAVELERS TO “TEST OUT” OF MANDATORY 14-DAY QUARANTINE

[COVID-19 Travel Advisory Guidance](#)

For any traveler to New York State from out-of-state/Level 2 and 3 countries (exempting the contiguous states PA, CT, NJ, MA), the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 14-day quarantine are below:

For non-essential travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:

- Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure from that state
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days
- On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine upon receipt of their second negative test

For non-essential travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours:

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in NYS
- However, the traveler must fill out the [traveler information form](#) upon entry into NYS, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in NY.

Essential workers are exempt from these guidelines and must continue to adhere to existing guidance.

Travelers entering New York from the United Kingdom must produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to boarding flights on British Airways, Delta Airlines, and Virgin Atlantic.

Cluster Action Initiative

On October 7th, the Governor announced the Cluster Action Initiative in response to growing, isolated COVID hotspots – particularly in the downstate region. The initiative will divide clusters and the areas around them into three categories with successively higher restrictions within each one: Red Zone - cluster itself; Orange Zone - warning zone; and Yellow Zone - precautionary zone. Click [here](#) to view the guidance and restrictions that apply the areas in each zone. Click [here](#) to check your address.

The State will reassess the cluster zone maps every 10 days and adjust if needed.

COVID-19 WINTER PLAN

Governor Cuomo and the state's COVID Task Force have worked in consultation with global public health experts, local governments and other stakeholders to create a Winter Plan to combat a COVID-19 surge in New York.

The Winter Plan consists of five targeted strategies focused on mitigating the spread of the virus and bolstering New York State hospital preparedness.

Click [here](#) to view the plan.

VACCINE PLANNING & DISTRIBUTION

Vaccine Distribution Planning

On October 18th, Governor Cuomo announced the NYS Department of Health has released a draft **COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Program** that serves as an initial framework for ensuring the safe and effective distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine in New York.

[COVID-19 Vaccine – What You Need to Know](#)

RE-OPENING

Criteria for Regional Reopening

Seven metrics have been established based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of State, and other public health experts. For more details on each metric, click [here](#).

Industries Reopening by Phase

Currently, all regions of New York are in Phase Four. However, remaining “open” is contingent on the infection rate and other health metrics. Industry specific guidance is released by the State and can be found [here](#). These phases are subject to change.

| <u>Phase One:</u> | <u>Phase Two:</u> | <u>Phase Three:</u> | <u>Phase Four:</u> |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Manufacturing • Retail – curbside pickup, only • Wholesale trade • Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some retail • Administrative Support • Real Estate/rental & Leasing • Outdoor dining at restaurants • Temples/Mosques /Churches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants/food services • Personal care services (hair salons, spas, etc.) • low-risk youth sports • Gatherings of up to 50 people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education • Low-Risk Outdoor Arts & Entertainment • Low-Risk Indoor Arts & Entertainment • Media Production • Schools |



Level of Risk

Statewide Re-Openings/Announcements

In addition to industries reopening in the assigned phases, New York is also allowing certain businesses and activities to resume statewide regardless of the region’s reopening status. Statewide re-opening guidelines can be found [here](#). The following activities/businesses/industries will reopen as of these dates;

As of May 15th - landscaping and gardening, certain low-risk outdoor activities, like tennis, and drive-in movie theaters.

On May 21st - religious gatherings of no more than 10 people.

On May 22nd - state/county/town/city beaches and lakeshores will be permitted to open if they adhere to [certain conditions](#).

Also, on May 22nd - social gatherings of up to 10 people (such as religious gatherings).

On May 25th - campgrounds and RV parks.

On May 26th - all veterinary practices and training camps for New York professional sports.

On May 29th - Governor Cuomo announced that Central NY, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, and the Southern Tier will begin Phase II of the NYS Reopening Plan.

On June 1st - horse racing tracks and Watkins Glen International Racetrack will be permitted to open without fans.

Also, on June 1st - dentist offices will be permitted to reopen statewide. State-run DMV offices in the counties of Albany, Onondaga, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, and the five boroughs of New York City will begin to process registrations and other transactions by mail, and beginning June 4, will accept transactions through secure drop boxes located at each office.

On June 4th - outdoor dining at restaurants will be permitted in Phase II. Drive-in and drive-thru student graduations are now permitted. The Governor will continue evaluating.

On June 11th - localities are permitted to open public pools and playgrounds, according to their own judgement while following state guidelines.

On June 16th - group homes that are certified by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities may begin visitation, while adhering to state guidelines.

On June 24th - **in collaboration with NJ and CT, Governor Cuomo invoked a travel advisory.** Religious gatherings can be held at 33% capacity (up from 25%). Social gatherings can be held up to 50 people (up from 25).

On June 26th - outdoor, socially distanced graduations of up to 150 people will be allowed.

On June 29th - daytime summer camps will be permitted to reopen. Sleep-away camps will not be permitted.

On July 13th, Governor Cuomo announced that schools will be permitted to open for the Fall semester, if the infection rate remains under the pre-determined threshold and schools follow strict NYS guidelines.

On August 24th, gyms can reopen at 33% capacity.

On September 30th, NYC restaurants will be allowed to resume indoor dining at 25% capacity on condition that they adhere to guidance.

On October 6th, Governor Cuomo announced the Cluster Action Initiative, which is responsible for identifying hotspot areas. School districts in these zip codes have been closed as of October 6th. Mass gatherings and religious meetings have once again been limited in capacity. The cluster maps can be found [here](#).

On October 18th, Governor Cuomo announced the draft New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Program.

On October 23rd, movie theaters outside of New York City can reopen starting at 25 percent capacity with no more than 50 people allowed in front of each screen.

On October 31st, Governor Cuomo announced new guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to "test out" of mandatory 14-day quarantine

Beginning in November, ski resorts can reopen with 50 percent indoor capacity.

On November 13th, all entities licensed by the State Liquor Authority (and gyms) must cease service and close by 10pm. Non-essential gatherings are reduced to a limit of 10 people.

On December 1st, hospital systems in Erie County must suspend elective surgeries.

As of December, indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to no more than 10 people.

Healthcare-Related Re-Openings

On June 16th, hospitals statewide will be permitted to accept visitors at their discretion. Hospitals must follow state [guidelines](#), including time limited visits. All visitors must wear PPE and are subject to symptom and temperature checks.

Many hospitals statewide are implementing policies to further limit visitation. As of December 1, this is not a State mandate. Prior to visiting a hospital in New York, please check the specific hospitals policies.

Region Reopening Status

Below is a chart showing the re-opening status of each region. The dates depict the day in which the region will begin a Phase. Each phase will last for a minimum of two weeks. Click [here](#) to see the Regional Monitoring Dashboard.

| Region | Phase I | Phase II | Phase III | Phase IV |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Capital Region | 5/20 | 6/3 | 6/17 | 7/1 |
| Central NY | 5/15 | 5/29 | 6/12 | 6/26 |
| Finger Lakes | 5/15 | 5/29 | 6/12 | 6/26 |
| Long Island | 5/27 | 6/10 | 6/24 | 7/8 |
| Mid-Hudson | 5/26 | 6/9 | 6/23 | 7/7 |
| Mohawk Valley | 5/15 | 5/29 | 6/12 | 6/26 |
| New York City | 6/8 | 6/22 | 7/6 | 7/20* |
| North Country | 5/15 | 5/29 | 6/12 | 6/26 |
| Southern Tier | 5/15 | 5/29 | 6/12 | 6/26 |
| Western NY | 5/19 | 6/2 | 6/16 | 6/30 |

*limited

GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES & EMPLOYERS

The following guidance applies to non-essential businesses that are re-opening AND essential businesses that remained open during the crisis.

Prior to reopening, businesses and employers must develop a [COVID Health and Safety plan](#) for reopening that include new safety precautions to minimize employee risk. Businesses can use the template or develop their own, if it meets guidelines defined below. This plan does not need to be submitted to the State. However, businesses must [affirm](#) that they have read and understand their obligation to operate in accordance with this guidance.

NYS has released industry-specific guidelines for reopening and can be found [here](#). These guidelines apply to both non-essential businesses in regions that are permitted to re-open and essential businesses that were previously permitted to remain open. This guidance is not intended to replace any existing applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and standards. Businesses/employers should incorporate these guidelines in their re-opening plan. [Regional Control Rooms](#) and local governments will be responsible for reinforcing guidelines.

These guidelines have been developed by NYS in partnership with industry experts and include considerations outlined in the [NY Forward plan](#) including:

- Adjusting workplace hours and shift design as necessary to reduce density in the workplace;
- Enacting social distancing protocols;
- Restricting non-essential travel for employees;
- Requiring all employees and customers to wear masks if in frequent contact with others;
- Implementing strict cleaning and sanitation standards;
- Enacting a continuous health screening process for individuals to enter the workplace;

- Continue tracing, tracking, and reporting of cases; and
- Developing liability processes.

Out-of-state employers who do business in New York:

Out-of-state employees are welcome to travel to businesses within NY if the region is in the appropriate phase of the reopening plan. Please be aware of the current travel advisory and penalties – see red box on first page.