



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I cannot stress enough that every one of us must do our part to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and a second wave of hospitalizations and deaths. We see what is happening around the country and we have worked so hard to contain the virus and resume some normalcy. Let's keep it up. Please wear a mask. Please wash your hands. Please do this for yourself, for your family, for your friends, for everyone.

Westchester has entered Phase 4 reopening stage under Governor Andrew Cuomo's NY Forward reopening plan. Businesses that will be eligible to begin reopening in Phase 4 are:

- Higher Education
- Low-Risk Outdoor Arts & Entertainment
- Low-Risk Indoor Arts & Entertainment
- Media Production
- Professional Sports Competitions with No Fans
- Food services, include restaurants food trucks and other food concessions, many of which had been eligible for takeout and outdoor dining services previously.

The state has a number of mandatory guidelines and best practices outlined for each of these industries that are able now to reopen. As with prior reopening stages, each reopening business must develop a written Safety Plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Phase 4, social gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed and indoor religious gatherings will be allowed at up to 33 percent of the indoor site's capacity.

The State has also issued the following directives:

The New York State Fair is canceled this year out of an abundance of caution.

The New York State Department of Health, in consultation with the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and others, is finalizing guidance on the possible reopening of schools in September. Every school district throughout the State has been directed to develop reopening plans. At the moment, no decisions have been made on whether schools are reopening in the fall.

Malls, gyms, casinos, and movie theaters are being considered high-risk indoor activities and are being studied more closely to determine when they will be safe to reopen.

New York is looking at specific air conditioning requirements to prevent airborne spread of the virus. The State will make industry recommendations on the use of air filtration technology to potentially eliminate the spread of COVID-19 through air conditioning systems. As evidence emerges that COVID-19 spread is linked more to airborne transmission than to surface area transmissions, the State is studying filters, their compatibility with existing air systems, the expense of modifications to air conditioning systems and other factors.

Please wear a mask. Stay safe.

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