

5/14/2020 Elected Officials EOC Call

The Regional Reopening Control Room was announced on Monday, our role is to review the metrics for reopening and have a daily call with all counties in the region where there is a Q&A with State reps. So far many questions have been about what will be in phase one and what the guidelines are. [The state has shared details](#) on templates for reopening safety plans and attestation forms for businesses to sign clarifying that they are following guidelines. This also includes businesses that hadn't closed due to being essential (though we expect direct guidance for essential business in the next week or so). Plans will have to be on site and available.

The website linked above gets updates daily, we encourage you to continue to check it.

Enforcement will fall upon state and local authorities. Our goal is to be diplomatic and do education-based enforcement in partnership with Health officials and municipalities. We have worked out a process with Health Dept. and law enforcement officials. There have not been many issues, in every case we've had compliance following diplomatic communications with any businesses / groups in violation.

Our first comment around enforcement is personal responsibility – the worst case scenario for a business is that they might expose their employees, families, or customers.

Regarding moving from phase-to-phase, the guidance we've received is that if we do not see a regional surge in cases/hospitalizations/etc., we'd be able to move to the next phase. If cases do increase it may prolong moving to the next phase. Here's the [dashboard](#).

We have begun to share our Reconstitution of Operations Plan, ROOP™ with the community, our plan is very detailed and can serve as a template for organizations looking to reopen safely.

Details can be found [here](#).

According to the State's EO, governments have to stay at 50% until June 7th.

We have also published our [Moving Forward](#) reopening web page where we will be posting updates over the coming weeks.

On Monday we held a live virtual town hall answering questions about reopening, and will be holding [another on Friday at 5pm](#).

We've shut down our mask-making operation. We have received 17,000 more masks from NYS and are distributing them to municipalities. The number available for each municipality is proportional to population. Each municipality should create their own distribution plan, ensuring that there are not gatherings, and consider partnering with other organizations in your municipalities. These masks can be distributed to the public, but please remind people to use their own resources to purchase or make masks if they can.

If you need more masks please use [this form](#).

We've learned that libraries can participate in curb-side pickup in phase one, and in some cases could begin to open. This afternoon we have a call with all of our County libraries to ensure that

they are coordinated. We will communicate out as the libraries come up with a process for reopening.

April Sales tax was down 24%, our model had it as down 27%. That reflects March sales. We will know April sales soon. We expect that Friday the Governor will announce his first set of changes to the State financial plan. We will provide an updated financial picture to the Legislature at next Tuesday's meeting.

Last week we furloughed 96 employees. We had 11 volunteer furloughs. We are fielding questions and helping to navigate the process, and our career center through Workforce NY has been helpful to us and many other employers.

Is there an expectation that employers reopening should have all of their employees tested?

No, testing is based on resource availability (materials, staffing) and whether you're symptomatic or have come in contact with a positive case. Essential workers *can* get tested. Nursing Home employees and pre-operative individuals are required.

The testing element of the criteria for reopening is around the capacity for testing rather than daily testing numbers, though the State hasn't clarified that openly.

In phase one are we still under "no gatherings of any size?"

Yes

AirBnb & VRBO, as they are not regulated is there something that we can put out around best practices hoping that we can ensure people are staying safe and paying attention?

We would encourage them to look at the Hotel/BNB criteria and ask that they comply with that. This has been a difficult area to regulate in general, though we'd steer them toward [these criteria](#).

Do municipalities have to get any reopening plans certified?

Our ROOP plan is for our departments, we're sharing it to you as a template in case you want to adapt or use it for your organization.

We will get clarity about this, but you should have a document in place so there is clarity for your staff. This will provide everyone with clear expectations.

You would have to affirm that you comply with directives by the state. This link is not available for governments yet.

Is there an action plan to help facilitate the increase in demand for septic permits?

Every year the Health Dept. prepares for an increase in the summer months. The team of people in that work have been in COVID-19 response, and will work as quickly as possible.

Construction season is starting – what additional guidance is there for them?

They will have to implement based on these details <https://forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase>

Since code enforcement will be starting and Public Works are coming back it will be difficult to keep at 50% as a municipality.

You have to give a best effort to demonstrate that you're doing all that you can. Municipalities

have the ability to make determinations and use your best judgement to reduce risk and potential exposure.

Can we increase our DPW staffing if we substitute on the 50% total from other depts?

This is not done dept. by dept. so yes, as long as the total workforce is at 50% you could have a fully staffed individual dept.

50% is to limit the possibility for exposure, you may need to have individuals working remotely.

May the County want to host a call with all code enforcement officers? Will complaints still go to Health Dept.?

Staff is meeting today and tomorrow about the enforcement process, we will then review it with all involved parties. We will figure out the best ways to communicate.

How are businesses that can start opening getting the message that they need to complete these plans?

Our town hall on Friday, shared by the State, our local channels and partners, and hopefully each municipality will be able to share as well.

This is the link we want you to share with businesses. <https://forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase>

For Summer Recreation, is there guidance yet?

We have communicated with many local providers, and we expect the State to share guidance by the end of the month.

Has the County communicated with the higher ed institutions about the Fall?

We speak with them all weekly and they are looking at best ways to bring people back in the fall. They are looking to do this in a collective, consistent, and safe way.

There has been a collective effort by independent institutions to communicate directly with the Governor's office.

Beth McGee from Enfield reminded everyone to get more information out to everyone about the Census. <https://2020census.gov/>

Is there a place where same day results are available?

Only one location that is able to do that as of today, a machine was issued emergency use authorization by the FDA and there is a limited amount of reagent available to them.

Is there an update on county contracts for youth recreation?

Hoping to have more answers in the next week or so.

Are antibody test results included in the numbers that you release?

These tests are available by Doctor's orders right now or by walk-in at the wellnow clinic. We are not reporting on these test results.

We don't yet know what the results of antibody testing mean.

Is a reopening plan a criteria for issuing a building permit?

We asked this to the State yesterday, they told us it is a local decision. Not a requirement that the State or County is imposing.

Can food pantries run out of basements of churches open?

Gatherings are not authorized, they can operate food pantries as long as there are not gatherings.

As the retail sector can offer curbside pick up, could we think of this as a side-walk sale opportunity?

No, this will not pass the state's guidance. It is about ordering ahead and picking up curbside.

When might municipalities be able to hold public meetings as long as they are socially distanced?

We've asked the question of the State, we don't have any guidance from the State yet. These will likely be treated as gatherings and we will update people as we have more information.

People are confused about what reopening means, what can we share with them?

We will have multiple forms of communication about this in the coming weeks, but we encourage you to read the information and guidance on this page and to share it widely.

<https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/movingforward>