



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING THE RIVERHEAD ECONOMY

In the face of this unprecedented health crisis, we have witnessed an incredible force of community which has been truly inspiring. While we are hopeful, the Long Island Region will be permitted to commence reopening by the end of May, residents are reminded to continue social distancing with strict adherence to stop-the-spread protocols outlined by the Center for Disease Control.

The NY Forward Guidance to move Suffolk County forward will require the Riverhead community to work together towards a 'new normal'. As we forge ahead down a new path, please remember those we lost to COVID-19, the bravery displayed by our community and the compassion and heroism our first responders, along with the frontline workers, continue to display.

Outlined below are the protocols for reopening our business districts. Once Suffolk County determines the Long Island region meets the health metrics, preparedness and a proactive approach are critical to a prompt reopening.

Although Suffolk County has not yet been designated by NYS as safe to reopen, the Riverhead Business Improvement District and the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce stand ready to work with area businesses as they prepare for their reopening, utilizing guidance set forth in the NY Forward Reopening protocols. The NYS economy will open in four phases with an anticipated two week time period between each phase. Reopening phase designations are as follows: Low (phase 1), medium (phase 2), high (phase 3), highest (phase 4).

Phase 1 (Low) Construction, manufacturing, curbside retail, agriculture, fishing, landscaping, tennis, drive in movies, horticulture and hotels with limited contact services;



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Phase 2 (Medium) Retail, wineries, professional services, finance, insurance, administrative support, real estate, attorneys, accountants, barbers, tattoo artists, and others;

Phase 3 (High) Restaurants, food services, contact services, and hotels;

Phase 4 (Highest) Arts, entertainment, recreation, education, major sporting events, and contact services at hotels, etc.

Construction and manufacturing have been deemed critical by the State and will be the first to reopen. The Building Department is still accepting new applications and most inspections continue.

Advancing from one phase to another is dependent on meeting the health metrics which have been designated for each NYS region. Each phase must meet the seven point benchmarks outlined in the “Moving New York Forward Reopening Guide” before progressing to the next. A resurgence in COVID-19 contamination may lead to mandatory business re-closures to mitigate contamination.

The NYS Health metric for reopening businesses are as follows:

Metric 1: Decline in Total Hospitalizations - Regions must show a sustained decline in the three-day rolling average of total net hospitalizations (the total number of people in the hospital each day) over the course of a 14-day period. Alternatively, regions can satisfy this metric if the daily net increase in total hospitalizations (measured on a 3-day rolling average) has never exceeded 15;

Metric 2: Decline in Deaths - Regions must show a sustained decline in the three-day rolling average of daily hospital deaths over the course of a 14-day period. Alternatively, regions can satisfy this metric if the three-day rolling average of daily new hospital deaths has never exceeded 5;

Metric 3: New Hospitalizations - Three-day rolling average. New hospitalizations include both new admissions and prior admissions subsequently confirmed as positive COVID-19 cases;

Metric 4: Hospital Bed Capacity - Regions must have at least 30% of their hospital beds available;



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Metric 5: ICU Bed Capacity - Regions must have at least 30% of their ICU beds available;

Metric 6: Diagnostic Testing Capacity - Average daily diagnostic testing over the past 7 days must be sufficient to conduct 30 tests per 1,000 residents per month; and

Metric 7: Contact Tracing Capacity – The number of contact tracers in each region must meet thresholds set by the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Vital Strategies.

NYS launched a new regional COVID-19 virus health metrics monitoring dashboard, which may be located on the following website: <https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>. This dashboard indicates the reopening status of each region and whether or not a region is meeting the reopening criteria set forth. The website is updated regularly by NYS.

Further business reopening guidelines may be found on the following website:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYForwardReopeningGuide.pdf>

For the businesses, who have been granted NYS designation to continue operating, see the New York State Empire State Development frequently asked questions at:

<https://esd.ny.gov/nyforward-faq>. Any concerns should be directed to Empire State Development Office at (212) 803-3100 or nys-nyc@esd.ny.gov

All businesses should have in place a reopening plan and a written business strategy plan to limit COVID-19 contamination. A sample business reopening template may be located at:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf. Additional questions may be emailed to: linyf@esd.ny.gov.

Compliance with NYS reopening mandates will ensure prompt reopening of Riverhead businesses. Please visit the websites identified above for tools and strategies to assist residents and Riverhead businesses in the path to recovery and phased reopening.