

## **Adams County Commissioner Update – April 24, 2020**

- Adams County has been conducting their bi-weekly Board of Commissioner's meetings by teleconference in order to protect the health and safety of the public and staff. The Adams County Commissioners continue to encourage public participation and are providing a call-in option for the public. If you are interested in participating via phone, please call 1-844-621-3956, enter meeting number 479 516 558 #. The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2020 at 9AM. The bi-weekly teleconference meetings will continue until further notice.
- The Adams County Commissioners & the Adams County Courts previously made a joint announcement that if the statewide *Stay At Home Order* continued through May 3, it would be necessary to furlough some staff due to operational and fiscal considerations. The impact to operations and staff was thoroughly recognized and taken into consideration before the decision was made to furlough. With some limited exceptions, it looks as though the *Stay At Home Order* will extend into at least mid-May - if not longer. As a result, the implementation of the Adams County Furlough Plan will be initiated on Monday, April 27. We are hopeful that the furlough will only last for several weeks – but the duration of the furlough will ultimately be dictated by state directives and county operational needs.

This initial temporary furlough is resulting in 94 County & Court staff being furloughed at a payroll of \$55,000 per week. After a thorough analysis of all departments, the amount of staff being furloughed was initially intended to be 126. This changed recently with the need for the Court's to resume hearings, beginning May 4. The Court has a need for an increase in staff that directly support the Court's operations. The Court now has a backlog of 400+ cases which they will attempt to reduce with supplemental hearings at the Courthouse & Human Services Building between May 4 – June 4. With the reduction of the backlog, the Court anticipates it will be able to resume normal hearing dates thereafter.

All County departments will continue to be operational. Some departments will be operational in a full capacity, and some in a limited capacity. Even those departments functioning in limited capacity will answer phone messages and email, although not all staff will be available.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners & Courts appreciate everyone's patience and understanding, as we adapt and overcome this pandemic. We especially want to recognize and thank all Adams County staff for their dedication, patience, understanding and support during this unsettling and uncertain time!
- At Wednesday's Commissioner's Meeting, "National Public Safety Tele-Communicators Week" was recognized one week late due to our current bi-weekly meeting schedule. Is there a more appropriate time to recognize these folks? As the meeting was conducted remotely by tele-communication, we will present the proclamation to our 911 dispatchers at a future meeting. Thank you for the critical service that you provide to our residents, first responders and our community!
- The Adams County Clerk of Courts has announced a new free smartphone application. Kelly A. Lawver, Clerk of Courts & Clerk of the Orphan's Court, has released the first mobile application containing information for both of her offices. Users will have the ability to search records, make fast and secure mobile payments, view active warrants, sign up for notifications when an inmate is moved or

released using PA SAVIN/VINE, and defendants can sign up for a text and/or email reminder of their required court appearance. The App also includes push notifications from the CDC regarding COVID-19.

The App will serve as a new way for the Adams County Clerk of Courts to connect with residents, providing information quickly, and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone. The App is available on both Android and IOS platforms. The Adams County Clerk of Courts App is available for download for free in the App Store and Google Play by searching "Adams County Clerk of Courts" or by [clicking here](#). COC Lawyer reports that the App was opened 6000 times last week.

- Next week the Adams County Commissioners will participate in two public updates. The first will be an interview with Community Media at 3:15 on Monday by remote interview. The public will be able to see it streamed at Community Media or when it is broadcast on Community TV. On Tuesday at 10:00AM, WellSpan and Adams County, will hold a joint conference call between WellSpan, and Adams County officials, with local, county, state & federal public officials being invited to listen in and then participate in Q&A. WellSpan will be providing invitations and program information to municipalities and public officials.
- The State Administration has developed a re-opening plan dividing the state into 6 geographic regions and color-coding re-opening status based on various data and trends. Adams County and most of the state, are currently in Red Status, still under the Governor's Stay At Home Order. Yellow signifies an easing of Stay At Home restrictions, and Green signifies the lifting of all aggressive mitigation efforts with resumption of most regular social and economic activity. Given the significance of this information, the full Press Release is included below. Try to follow all recommendations for reducing exposure, and use common sense, so that we can get to Yellow as soon as possible!
- Stay Safe & Well!!



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 22, 2020**

[View Online](#)

## **Gov. Wolf: Reopening Targeted for May 8 in North-Central, Northwest**

*Phased Approach Relies on Safety and Science*

**Harrisburg, PA** – Governor Tom Wolf today presented his detailed plan for reopening the commonwealth with a targeted May 8 start. The administration will categorize reopening into three phases: red, yellow, green. Phases will be assigned based on conditions in a county, counties or region.

The administration will first study conditions in the north-central and northwest regions with a target of moving from red to yellow on May 8. Additional monitoring will take place and direction will be provided in the next week.

To decide when to move to a new phase, the administration will use Department of Health metrics and a data tool developed by Carnegie Mellon University. The full plan is available [here](#).

The red phase, which currently applies to the whole state, has the sole purpose of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through strict social distancing, non-life sustaining business and school closures, and building safety protocols.

<b>Red</b>	
<b>Work and Congregate Setting Restrictions</b>	<b>Social Restrictions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Life Sustaining Businesses Only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stay-at-Home Orders in Place</li><li>Large Gatherings Prohibited</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congregate Care and Prison Restrictions in Place</li> <li>• Schools (for in-person instruction) and Most Child Care Facilities Closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurants and Bars Limited to Carry-Out and Delivery Only</li> <li>• Only Travel for Life-Sustaining Purposes Encouraged</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterate and reinforce safety guidance for businesses, workers, individuals, facilities, update if necessary</li> <li>• Monitor public health indicators, adjust orders and restrictions as necessary</li> </ul>	

As regions or counties move into the yellow phase, some restrictions on work and social interaction will ease while others, such as closures of schools, gyms, and other indoor recreation centers, as well as limitations around large gatherings, remain in place. The purpose of this phase is to begin to power back up the economy while keeping a close eye on the public health data to ensure the spread of disease remains contained to the greatest extent possible.

<b>Yellow</b>	
<b>Work and Congregate Setting Restrictions</b>	<b>Social Restrictions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telework Must Continue Where Feasible</li> <li>• Businesses with In-Person Operations Must Follow Business and Building Safety Orders</li> <li>• Child Care Open with Worker and Building Safety Orders</li> <li>• Congregate Care and Prison Restrictions in Place</li> <li>• Schools Remain Closed for In-Person Instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay-at-Home Restrictions Lifted in Favor of Aggressive Mitigation</li> <li>• Large Gatherings of More than 25 Prohibited</li> <li>• In-Person Retail Allowable, Curbside and Delivery Preferable</li> <li>• Indoor Recreation, Health and Wellness Facilities (such as gyms, spas), and all Entertainment (such as casinos, theaters) Remain Closed</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurants and Bars Limited to Carry-Out and Delivery Only</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All businesses must follow CDC and DOH guidance for social distancing and cleaning</li> <li>• Monitor public health indicators, adjust orders and restrictions as necessary</li> </ul>	

The green phase eases most restrictions by lifting the stay-at-home and business closure orders to allow the economy to strategically reopen while continuing to prioritize public health. While this phase will facilitate a return to a “new normal,” it will be equally important to continue to monitor public health indicators and adjust orders and restrictions as necessary to ensure the spread of disease remains at a minimum.

Green	
Work and Congregate Setting Restrictions	Social Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Businesses Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive Mitigation Orders Lifted</li> <li>• All Individuals Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor public health indicators, adjust orders and restrictions as necessary</li> </ul>	

Just as the administration took a measured, county-by-county approach to the stay-at-home order before expanding statewide, it will do the same to ease restrictions and reopen the state.

The governor first announced the standards for reopening last week and they remain the focal point for the comprehensive plans announced today:

- The approach will be data driven and reliant upon quantifiable criteria to drive a targeted, evidence-based, regional approach to reopenings in Pennsylvania.
- There will be guidance and recommendations for employers, individuals, and health care facilities and providers for assured accountability as we reopen.
- Reopening necessitates that adequate personal protective equipment and diagnostic testing are available.
- Reopening requires a monitoring and surveillance program that allows the commonwealth to deploy swift actions for containment or mitigation.
- Protections for vulnerable populations must remain steadfast throughout the reopening process, such as limitations on visitors to congregate care facilities and prisons.
- Limitations on large gatherings unrelated to occupations should remain in place for the duration of the reopening process.

The commonwealth is partnering with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to create a data-driven decision support tool that will enable a balance between maximizing the strengthening of the economy while minimizing public health risks. This tool will help officials better understand the current health and economic status, as well as the inherent risks and benefits to easing restrictions by sector and region.

There is no single tool or model that can determine easing of restrictions or reopening, but the commonwealth, through partnerships with Carnegie Mellon University and other institutions of higher education, and the criteria set by the Department of Health, will make informed decisions based on data and science.

To determine when a region is ready to reopen and return to work, the state will evaluate the incidence rate of COVID-19 cases per capita, relying upon existing regional health districts used by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A regional assessment will measure the COVID-19 cases to determine if the target goals of an average of less than 50 cases per 100,000 individuals over the course of 14 days is met. The administration will work closely with county and local governments to enable the communities to reopen and transition back to work.

Throughout this process, the administration will have guidance in place to support best public health practices to avoid these negative impacts. This guidance will reinforce and build on existing [business](#) and [building safety](#) orders and will adapt to the changing nature of the pandemic, even as we learn from the first communities to reopen.

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