



# PHASE 2 RE-OPENINGS

## Incremental Phase 2 Re-opening for Palm Beach County

On September 1, 2020, the County Administrator provided the Board of County Commissioners this *Incremental Phase 2 Re-opening Plan* to be submitted to Governor DeSantis with a request to move Palm Beach County to an incremental Phase 2 re-opening. It is anticipated that movement would occur after Labor Day weekend, in a step-by-step fashion as outlined below, consistent with Governor DeSantis' direction and authorization.

The schedule below is approximate and assumes that local health metrics as outlined in the *COVID-19 Phased Restart (CPR) Program* continue to move in a desirable direction, and that resurgence is not a factor. Additionally, the schedule below is subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners and Governor DeSantis.

The schedule and associated strategies outlined in this plan are based on Florida Department of Health (FDoH) and CDC guidelines and recommendations<sup>i</sup> based on growing evidence that the more a person interacts with others in an enclosed and crowded area and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread<sup>ii</sup>. The strategies listed herein work to either limit indoor capacity, reduce opportunities for close contact, and/or decrease the amount of prolonged periods (>15 minutes) of interaction with others. Limiting close face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of the disease<sup>iii</sup>.

- Facial coverings are required in all businesses permitted to operate under Phase 2 subject to the restrictions and limitations included in County Emergency Order 20-012, *Additional Directive on Wearing of Facial Coverings*.
- Social or physical distancing in accordance with CDC Guidelines shall be adhered to in all businesses.
- Sanitation procedures shall be implemented in all businesses in accordance with CDC *Re-opening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes*<sup>iv</sup>.
- Questions regarding Phase 2 openings should be directed to the Division of Emergency Management, telephone (561) 712-6400 or e-mailed to [ComplianceReopening@pbcgov.org](mailto:ComplianceReopening@pbcgov.org)



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Approximate date: September 8, 2020

**Step 1 – Re-open certain indoor entertainment venues and other businesses.** Re-open entertainment venues that have moderate-to-high risk of community spread at reduced capacity. Entertainment venues will be permitted to re-open with facial coverings, physical distancing, and enhanced cleaning protocols, but must operate temporarily at reduced functional capacity as indicated below:

- Bowling alleys<sup>v</sup>:
  - Limit to 50% of total lanes operational;
  - 4 players/lane maximum;
  - Restricted access to house balls<sup>vi</sup>; and
  - Non-cohort spectators must sit 6-feet apart (no standing or congregating);
- Escape rooms<sup>vii</sup>:
  - No mixed-player games; only private parties;
  - Staggered reservations or start times;
  - Maximum 6 persons per room;
- Movie theaters (up to a maximum of 50% total seating capacity<sup>viii</sup>);
- Playhouses (33% total seating capacity<sup>ix</sup>);
- Skating centers<sup>x</sup>:
  - Maximum of 25 skaters per standard rink<sup>xi</sup>;
  - Non-cohort spectators must sit 6-feet apart (no standing or congregating);
- Trampoline centers<sup>xii</sup>:
  - Limit to 50% of equipment/venue capacity<sup>xiii</sup>;
  - Only one (1) person per trampoline, battle beam, tumble mat, ninja pit, or other attraction/piece of equipment;
  - All shared equipment must be sanitized between patrons;
  - No shared equipment where cleaning between patron contact is not feasible (e.g., dodge ball);
  - No groups/parties/activities >10 people; and
  - Non-cohort spectators must sit 6-feet apart (no standing or congregating);
- Other indoor entertainment venues offering, either for participation or observation, recreational opportunities or games of skill in an enclosed building:
  - Examples include but not limited to, billiard halls not licensed as bars, indoor soccer, laser tag, axe throwing, and paintball;
  - 50% equipment/venue capacity; restricted equipment will be clearly prohibited from operation (e.g., signage or covered);
  - No shared equipment or high contact equipment among patrons where cleaning between patrons is not feasible;
  - No groups/parties/activities >10 people; and
  - Non-cohort spectators must sit 6-feet apart (no standing or congregating);



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- Restaurants and food establishments:
  - Continue indoor service at up to 50% seating capacity<sup>xiv</sup>;
  - Full capacity outdoor seating is permissible with appropriate physical distancing;
  - Bar top meal service permissible with appropriate physical distancing; and
  - Restaurants and food establishments may operate up to 50% of their existing billiard tables (i.e., one table or half of all tables, whichever is greater). Restricted tables will be clearly prohibited from operation (e.g., signage or covered).
- The following may operate at full capacity<sup>xv</sup> with appropriate physical distancing and with enhanced sanitization protocols<sup>xvi</sup> implemented:
  - In-store retail sales establishments;
  - Museums and libraries;
  - Personal services establishments not opened by prior orders; and
  - Gyms and fitness centers.

After an evaluation period whereby Palm Beach County will gather and analyze sufficient local health metrics data that demonstrates little or no significant resurgence or negative public health impact of opening Step 1, the County may advance to the next step.

## Approximate date: School District to determine

**Step 2 – Re-open public schools (in classroom).** Palm Beach County is recommending that the School District of Palm Beach County consider re-opening brick & mortar schools to conduct in-person/in-classroom instruction at all public schools 3-4 weeks following Phase 2, Step 1. The School District and the Department of Health-Palm Beach County should gather and analyze health metrics data to determine any public health impact of this step of re-opening. Palm Beach County will continue to gather and analyze countywide health metrics data to monitor for significant resurgence or any negative public health impacts of steps 1 and 2.

The School District of Palm Beach County and the Department of Health-Palm Beach County will collaboratively gather and analyze districtwide health metrics data to assess and monitor for any significant resurgence or negative public health impacts associated with the re-opening of [in-classroom] public schools. The County will consider this data, along with other countywide health metrics data, in its analysis, determination, and timing to advance to Step 3.

## Approximate date: October 19, 2020

**Step 3 – Re-open other entertainment venues.** Re-open other entertainment venues that have higher risk<sup>xvii</sup> of community spread due to exposure to congregation of larger numbers of people in close proximity for extended periods of time. These venues will be initially opened at a reduced capacity of 50%.



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- The following entertainment venues/establishments will be permitted to re-open at 50% capacity<sup>xviii</sup>:
  - Auditoriums;
  - Bingo parlors;
  - Comedy clubs; and
  - Concert houses<sup>xix</sup>.

After an evaluation period whereby Palm Beach County will gather and analyze sufficient local health metrics data that demonstrates little or no significant resurgence or negative public health impact of opening Step 3, the County may advance to Step 4.

**Approximate date: November 2, 2020**

**Step 4 – Further reduce restrictions on entertainment venues.** Further re-open entertainment venues by reducing some operational and capacity restrictions<sup>xx</sup>:

- All businesses opened in Step 1 (above) may operate at expanded occupancy:
  - Bowling alleys:
    - All lanes may be operational, 4 players/lane maximum;
  - Escape rooms:
    - No mixed-player games; only private parties;
    - Staggered reservations or start times.
  - Movie theaters (75% total seating capacity);
  - Playhouses (66% total seating capacity);
  - Skating centers:
    - Maximum of 50 skaters per standard rink;
  - Trampoline centers:
    - Limit to 75% of equipment/venue capacity<sup>xxi</sup>;
    - No groups/parties/activities >15 people.
  - Other indoor entertainment venues offering, either for participation or observation, recreational opportunities or games of skill in an enclosed building:
    - 75% equipment/venue capacity;
    - No group activities >15 people.

After an evaluation period whereby Palm Beach County will gather and analyze sufficient local health metrics data that demonstrates little or no significant resurgence or negative public health impact of opening Step 4, the County may advance to Step 5.



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Approximate date: TBD - pending specific authorization of the Governor

**Step 5 – Further reduce restrictions on entertainment venues and other businesses.** Further re-open businesses and entertainment venues by adding business categories and reducing capacity restrictions:

- All businesses opened in Step 1, 3, and 4 (above) may operate at further expanded occupancy;
- Pending specific authorization of the Governor, the following may be re-opened with capacity restrictions:
  - Arcades;
  - Bars;
  - Billiard halls licensed as a bar;
  - Hookah, cigar, and other smoking bars and lounges;
  - Nightclubs, establishments offering adult entertainment, strip clubs.

9/2/2020  
previous versions are obsolete

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<sup>i</sup> *Prevent Getting Sick* (CDC website) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

<sup>ii</sup> “Florida Department of Health expanded statewide Public Service Announcement Campaign, which encourages Floridians to avoid the Three Cs” (July 24, 2020). FDOH encourages Floridians to avoid the Three Cs: 1) Closed Spaces. Avoid closed spaces with poor ventilation that could allow contagious droplets to linger in the air; 2) Crowded Places. Avoid crowded places with many people nearby; the greater the number of individuals in an area, the greater the chances of COVID-19 spreading from person-to-person and 3) Close-Contact Settings. Avoid close-range conversations and stay at least six-feet from others. See FDOH website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/07/072420-1446-covid19.pr.html>

<sup>iii</sup> *Prevent Getting Sick* (CDC website) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

<sup>iv</sup> CDC re-opening guidance found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>  
Businesses should ensure that patrons wear masks as outlined in Palm Beach County [Emergency Order 20-15](#), maintain physical distancing (i.e., work to eliminate traffic choke points or areas for congregation) and provide ample hand sanitizing stations throughout their venue.

<sup>v</sup> Recommendation by the Palm Beach County Bowling Association. Venues must ensure 6-foot physical distancing between non-cohort groups.

<sup>vi</sup> Patrons do not have free access to house balls; once they choose or are assigned a house ball, they use it for the entire play – it is not shared with other patrons; all house balls are thoroughly cleaned after each use.

<sup>vii</sup> We were unable to locate any re-opening guidelines or industry standards for escape rooms, including the Association for Room Escapes of North America. <https://escapegamesamerica.org/> Each room must be disinfected after each game. To reduce the risk of contact spread, all patrons should be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the room.

<sup>viii</sup> Venues must ensure 6-foot physical distancing between non-cohort groups.

<sup>ix</sup> Venues must ensure 6-foot physical distancing between non-cohort groups; 33% total seating capacity, in general, allows for seating in every third seat, thereby supporting an approximate 6-foot physical distancing.

<sup>x</sup> The United States Ice Rink Association does not identify specific criteria to re-open. The USIRA states the criteria should be prescribed by the local government. *Returning to the Rinks: Preparing Your Ice Rink to Reopen*. (May 2020). <https://www.usicerinks.com/resources/COVID-19>

<sup>xi</sup> Standard rink is 80’X200’ or ≈16,000 ft<sup>2</sup>; larger rinks may have a proportionately larger occupancy (i.e., 1 skater/≈640 ft<sup>2</sup> ice space).



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- <sup>xii</sup> The International Association of Trampoline Parks (IATP) does not identify specific criteria to re-open; the IATP states the criteria should be prescribed by the local government. <https://www.indoortrampolineparks.org/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Equipment capacity, not building occupancy. The IATP suggests that occupancy should be calculated based on actual area that guests can utilize. As such, limit occupancy to half of the venue's maximum capacity for total patrons physically using all equipment/machines at one time + the maximum # of patrons that can physically distance (i.e., 6-feet apart) in the spectator seating/viewing area(s). For example, if a venue has 10 rock climbing walls with maximum capacity of 3 total climbers physically using each one at the same time under normal conditions X 10 walls = 30 total patrons @ 50% = 15 patrons + the maximum # of patrons that can physically distance (i.e., 6-feet apart) in the spectator seating/viewing area(s).
- <sup>xiv</sup> Pursuant to Governor DeSantis' [Executive Order 20-139](#)
- <sup>xv</sup> Pursuant to Governor DeSantis' [Executive Order 20-139](#)
- <sup>xvi</sup> CDC re-opening guidance found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
- <sup>xvii</sup> Several sources rank activities by risk level. See [Texas Medical Association](#), [Hartford HealthCare](#), [State of Colorado](#), and the [CDC](#).
- <sup>xviii</sup> Venues must ensure 6-feet physical distancing between non-cohort groups.
- <sup>xix</sup> Indoor and outdoor concert venues.
- <sup>xx</sup> As in prior steps, venues must ensure 6-feet physical distancing between non-cohort groups.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Equipment capacity, not building occupancy. The IATP suggests that occupancy should be calculated based on actual area that guests can utilize. As such, limit occupancy to half of the venue's maximum capacity for total patrons physically using all equipment/machines at one time + the maximum # of patrons that can physically distance (i.e., 6-feet apart) in the spectator seating/viewing area(s). For example, if a venue has 10 rock climbing walls with maximum capacity of 3 total climbers physically using each one at the same time under normal conditions X 10 walls = 30 total patrons @ 75% = 23 patrons + the maximum # of patrons that can physically distance (i.e., 6-feet apart) in the spectator seating/viewing area(s).