New York State Reopening Set to Expand on May 19, County Updates Related to Reopening

New York State has announced that effective May 19, most business capacity restrictions will be based solely on 6 feet social distancing requirements. Percentage-based capacity restrictions will be removed for most commercial settings, including retail, food services, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops, other personal care services, and houses of worship, among other settings.

Additionally, the following will go into effect on the stated dates:

- The outdoor social gathering limit increased from 200 to 500 people on May 10.
- The indoor social gathering limit will increase from 100 to 250 people on May 19.
- The outdoor residential gathering limit of 25 people is removed as of May 19.
- The indoor residential gathering limit will increase from 10 to 50 people on May 19.
- Large-scale indoor event venues will operate at 30% capacity starting May 19.
- The 12 a.m. food and beverage curfew will be lifted for outdoor dining areas beginning May 17 and for indoor dining areas beginning May 31.
- The 1 a.m. curfew for catered events where attendees have provided proof of vaccination status or a recent negative COVID-19 test result will be lifted May 17, with the curfew for all catered events to be lifted May 31.
- Large-scale outdoor event venues, including professional and collegiate sports and live performing arts & entertainment, will only be limited by space available for patrons or parties of patrons to maintain required social distance, and fully vaccinated attendees may be seated at full capacity in assigned sections designated solely for fully vaccinated individuals, beginning May 19.
- Gyms and fitness centers outside of NYC can increase capacity to 50% beginning May 15.
- Casinos and gaming facilities can increase capacity to 50% beginning May 15.
- Offices can increase capacity to 75% beginning May 15.

Yesterday, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) revised their COVID recommendations to allow fully vaccinated people to *"resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing except where federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance."* Current New York State COVID guidance regarding masks continues to be in effect while New York State reviews CDC recommendations and until revised guidance is issued.

For more information, visit the Health Department's Environmental Health Services page. The Health Department must be notified about any event over the social gathering limit. Notifications can be made online here.