Central New York Meets Criteria to Open.
Central New York joins North Country, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley Regions, in meeting the seven metrics required to begin reopening after NYS on PAUSE Executive Orders expire on May 15th. See the press release here.

The Regional Monitoring Dashboard allowing regions to open and used to monitor them as they re-open can be found here. Information available on the phasing of New York by industry can be found here. Forestry Guidelines for employers and forestry can be found here. A sample template for a business Safety Plan can be found here.

The Governor also issued an Executive Order extending NY Pause through May 28th in the remaining 5 regions who have not yet been able to re-open, see here. This includes the Capital District and Mid-Hudson Valley which still affect many ESFPA members. The Order does, however, allow any region to re-open Phase 1 if they meet all seven criteria in advance of May 28th.

COVID Stimulus 4.0
The House of Representatives will vote today on a three trillion-dollar economic stimulus package titled the HEROES Act (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act—H.R. 6800). The legislation features financial aid for state and local governments totaling one trillion dollars. Roughly half of that total figure—$500 billion—is earmarked for state governments, with $375 billion dedicated to localities and the remainder to tribal governments and territories.

The bill also includes direct cash payments to individuals and dependents of up to $6,000 per household and would extend a $600 weekly increase to unemployment insurance into January 2021. H.B. 6800 does not add additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, but it would extend the program to Dec. 31 from its current June 30 end-date and make other changes regarding which firms are eligible and how loan proceeds can be spent.

H.R. 6800 includes several tax provisions. Notable among them is language repealing provisions in the CARES Act that allowed for net operating loss carry back of up to five years. The legislation will pass the House on largely a party line vote today but is seen as a messaging bill for Democrat priorities and will not move in the Senate. Discussions are ongoing in the Senate about the outlines of the next stimulus package, but it appears that any legislative action will occur in June at the earliest. In today’s daily briefing Governor Cuomo indicated that NY needed to know what, if any, federal assistance is in store by the end of May to avoid deep cuts in education, local assistance and health care. The next few weeks should be very interesting.

SAVE THE DATE!!!! Join Our Membership Meeting Via Zoom on Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m.
Mark your calendar for Thursday May 21st at 7 p.m. to join us for a meeting on re-opening New York and the requirements for Business Safety Plans. We will have more details early next week.