

Phased Reopening of Businesses

Each region will reopen businesses in phases, with at least two weeks in between each phase. This allows state and local leaders to monitor the effects of the reopening and ensure hospitalization and infection rates are not increasing before moving to the next phase and permitting more economic activity.

	Greater Economic Impact	Lower Economic Impact
Low Infection Rate	Industry greater economic impact, low risk of workplace or customer infection spread	Industry less economic impact, low risk of workplace or customer infection spread
High Infection Rate	Industry greater economic impact, higher risk of workplace or customer infection spread	Industry less economic impact, higher risk of workplace or customer infection spread

The phase-in plan prioritizes businesses considered to have a greater economic impact and inherently low risks of infection for the workers and customers, followed by other businesses considered to have less economic impact, and those that present a higher risk of infection spread.

Additionally, when phasing-in reopenings, regions must not open attractions or businesses that would draw a large number of visitors from outside the local area.

There is, unsurprisingly, a significant demand by people right now across New York and our neighboring states to gather and enjoy each other's company. While people should be able to have fun, facilities or events that attract hundreds of people from outside the region pose a significant public health danger as we try to carefully reopen. These places should be closed and events should continue to be postponed or cancelled until the threat of COVID-19 has subsided.

As businesses reopen, they will not be returning to business as usual. Transmission of COVID-19 will remain a threat to employees and customers for some time, and business owners will need to adapt to this "new normal."

Each business and industry must have a plan to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business.



Phase 1



- Construction**
- Manufacturing**
- Wholesale Trade**
- Select Retail for Curbside Pickup Only**

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing

Phase 2



- Professional Services**
- Finance and Insurance**
- Retail**
- Administrative Support**

Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing

Phase 3

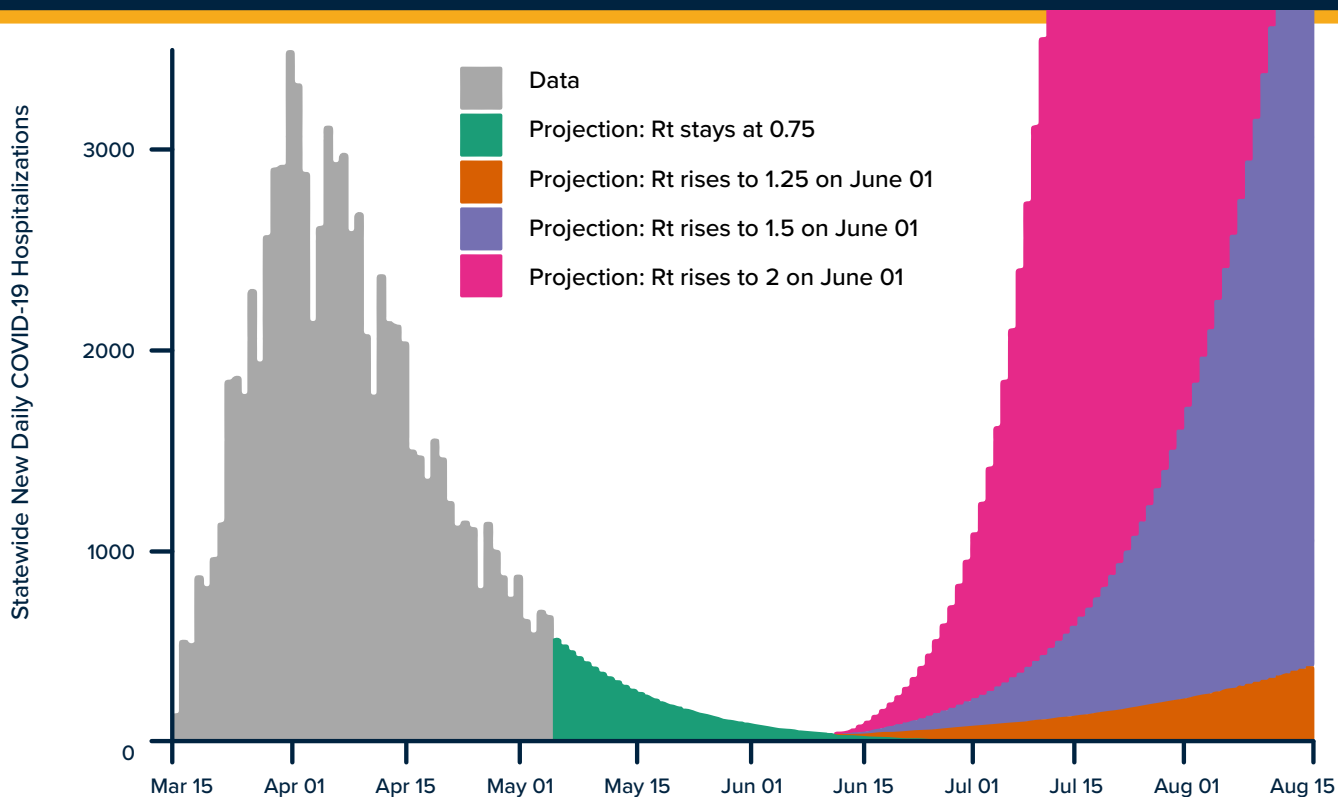


- Restaurants and Food Services**

Phase 4



- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation**
- Education**



In developing these plans, businesses will need to consider three main factors.

The first factor is protections for employees and customers. These include possible adjustments to workplace hours and shift design as necessary to reduce density in the workplace; enacting social distancing protocols, and restricting non-essential travel for employees.

The second is changes to the physical workspace, including requiring all employees and customers to wear masks if in frequent close contact with others and implementing strict cleaning and sanitation standards.

The last factor for businesses to consider is implementing processes that meet our changing public health obligations, like screening individuals when they enter the workplace, or reporting confirmed positives to customers. While these processes will vary from business to business, almost everyone will have to adapt, in some way or another, to our new normal.

The State has created and deployed the **New York Forward Reopening Advisory Board**, to help guide the state's reopening strategy and develop industry specific safety guidelines, and regions should consider them a resource throughout this process. The advisory board is chaired by former Secretaries to the Governor Steve Cohen and Bill Mulrow and includes over 100 business, community, and civic leaders from industries across the state.

As businesses and citizens alike grow more and more restless, the pressure on elected leaders to act based on emotion or politics, rather than facts and data, will increase. But both the public health and economic stakes are too high right now to let opinion guide decision-making.

The New York Forward Plan is evidence-based, sound, and driven by science and economics, not politicians. It's how we reopen our state and put New York back to work as safely and as quickly as we can.