



Office of the Governor
JOHN CARNEY

Letter on Economic Recovery

Dear Delawareans,

I'm writing to give you an update on where we are, and where we're going. The road to economic recovery will be a long one. And we can't start our economic recovery until our path toward controlling this virus is clear.

That said, what we can do right now is plan. Over the next few weeks, we'll be soliciting ideas from business owners, non-profits, the general public, teachers, community leaders, and legislators about ways to reopen our economy.

I thought it would also be helpful to explain how we'll know when it's time to safely reopen. Here are the basic elements of our decision-making process:

- Whenever possible, we plan to use the CDC [guidance](#) from the White House Task Force as a roadmap.
- That means we will open the economy in phases.
- In order to move to Phase 1, we'll need to see 14 days of our cases going down. You can track those trends [here](#).
- We also need to hire and then train several hundred contact tracers (we're working on that right now) so that when someone gets sick, we can quickly notify everyone they came in contact with and make sure they self-isolate.
- We also need a reliable source of tests. We have to be able to test anyone with symptoms, anyone who has been exposed, and anyone in vulnerable communities like Long-Term Care facilities and people with underlying health conditions. We're working on this right now as well.
- Even once we start easing some of the restrictions, things won't be like they used to, at least not for a while. Every business that opens will have to follow strict social distancing guidelines. In some cases, that might mean that they can't operate at full capacity, or that their staff will need to wear masks. These are the details we're working out now, and [that we want your input on](#).

I know the big question is: when does all this begin?

I wish I had a date certain to give you, but I don't. It's not clear yet whether our positive cases are on a consistent downward trend. Once they start going down consistently, and once we have our contact tracers and testing regimen in place, we can start moving toward Phase 1. We'll keep watching numbers to know when to move to Phase 2 and so on.

This has been a trying time for everyone. My heart hurts for every family that has lost a loved one, every parent struggling to make ends meet, and every business owner whose business is on the brink. There are intangible costs to this crisis as well – in the canceled birthday party, the missed family dinners, postponed funerals, the high school sports career cut short, and the loss of human contact.

What I can tell you is that I know how hard this is, and we are working night and day to bring it to an end as quickly as possible. Thanks for your patience, and for doing your part.

Sincerely,

Governor John Carney

Key factors driving Delaware's reopening decision-making process:

Whenever possible, use the CDC guidance from the White House Task Force as a roadmap.

That means opening the economy in phases.



In order to move to Phase 1, we'll need to see 14 days of our cases going down.



Hire and then train several hundred contact tracers.



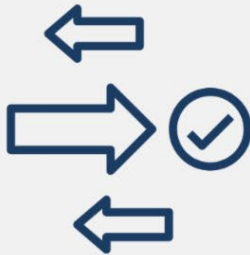
When someone gets sick, we can quickly notify everyone they came in contact with and make sure they self-isolate.

Ensuring a reliable source of tests.

We have to be able to test anyone with symptoms, anyone who has been exposed, and anyone in vulnerable communities like Long-Term Care facilities and people with underlying health conditions.



Things will be different.



Even once we start easing some of the restrictions, things won't be like they used to, at least not for a while. Every business that opens will have to follow strict social distancing guidelines. In some cases, that might mean that they can't operate at full capacity, or that their staff will need to wear masks. These are the details we're working out now, and that we want your input on.

**Offer your ideas & help shape our recovery plan:
de.gov/economy**

For the latest updates on COVID-19 in DE:
de.gov/coronavirus

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