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What You Need to Know

- Central New York, North County, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley Regions have met all seven metrics required to begin phase one of the [state's regional phased reopening plan](#) and can begin reopening on May 15.
- New York will continue to reopen on a regional basis as each region meets the criteria necessary to protect public health as businesses reopen.
- Governor Cuomo released a [guide](#) to the state's "NY Forward Reopening" Plan, along with the state's [regional monitoring dashboard](#).
- All K-12 schools and college facilities statewide will remain closed and continue to provide distance learning, meal delivery and childcare services for the remainder of the school year.
- Governor Cuomo issued executive orders [202.17](#) and [202.18](#) requiring all people in New York to wear masks or [face coverings in public](#), including when taking public or private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles.
- New York has [issued first-in-the-nation criteria](#) to healthcare professionals establishing an interim definition for [COVID-related inflammatory illness in children](#).
- The state Department of Health hosted a webinar for healthcare providers to discuss inflammatory disease in children related to COVID-19; view recording of webinar [here](#).
- Certain low-risk business and recreational activities will be ready to reopen statewide on May 15th, including landscaping and gardening businesses; and recreational activities such as tennis and drive-in movie theaters.
- Governor Cuomo issues Executive Order mandating all nursing home staff be tested for COVID-19 twice per week.
- New Yorkers without health insurance can apply through NY State of Health through June 15, 2020; must apply within 60 days of losing coverage.
- A new contest asks New Yorkers to create and share a video explaining why wearing a mask in public is important. Interested applicants can go to [wearamask.ny.gov](#).
- Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services.
- New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.
- Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
- Your [local health department](#) is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.