



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2020

FAYETTE TURNS ‘YELLOW’ NEXT WEEK

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County will transition into the first phase of reopening next Friday, May 15, following a lengthy shutdown during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Gov. Tom Wolf announced today that Fayette will join 12 other southwestern Pennsylvania counties in easing his Stay-at-Home Order restrictions from the “red” to “yellow” category, for their efforts in “flattening the curve” and combating COVID-19.

Under the yellow phase, the stay-at-home order is lifted for aggressive mitigation, but gatherings of more than 25 people are still prohibited.

In-person retail sales are allowed, but curbside and delivery options are preferred. Restaurants and bars will remain limited to carry-out and delivery.

Telework must continue wherever possible, and businesses with in-person operations must continue to follow strict safety orders. Child care facilities can reopen, but must comply with state guidance.

Schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, and restrictions will remain in place for prisons and congregate care facilities.

Additionally, all indoor recreation, health and wellness facilities (such as gyms, spas, hair and nail salons) and entertainment (casinos, theaters, etc.) must remain closed under the yellow phase.

Wolf said the reopening plan “prioritizes the health and welfare of Pennsylvanians” by using a combination of factors to gauge how much movement a location can handle before COVID-19 becomes a threat. He said yellow means “caution” and everyone must continue to be mindful of how their actions could impact others.

“I’d like to emphasize that this plan is not a one-way route. We are closely monitoring the 24 counties (currently) in the yellow phase and will reimpose restrictions if danger arises,” Wolf said. “Every contact between two people is a new link in the chain of potential transmission, and if the new case count begins to climb in one area, restrictions will need to be imposed to prevent local medical facilities from becoming overwhelmed.”

Fayette County Commissioner Scott Dunn said residents were asked to “sacrifice so that Pennsylvania could ‘flatten the curve.’”

“We did just that, for which I thank you, Fayette County,” Dunn said. “Your actions saved lives during this crisis. At no time was our healthcare industry overwhelmed by the number of COVID-19 patients.”

Dunn said it's now time to reopen Fayette County businesses and restart our economy, with local businesses most needing our support.

"They supported our organizations when we needed sponsors for our ball teams and dance programs. Now is the time to repay this generosity," he said. "Please be sure to patronize these locals as they safely reopen."

Fayette County, with the assistance of county officials and employees, has worked hard during the crisis to "stay on top of all the information" and secure Personal Protective Equipment, Dunn added.

"The transition to yellow will not alter our continued diligence, and we will continue to keep public safety a priority," he said.

Commissioner Chairman Dave Lohr said Fayette County residents have been diligent in working to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

"We've been successful, as evidenced by the limited number of cases countywide," Lohr said. "Thank you to everyone in Fayette County for pulling together in this situation, even as we're social distancing. We need to continue what we're doing; continue taking all necessary precautions."

In addition to social distancing, Lohr urged all residents to continue washing their hands regularly, for a minimum of 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer and wearing face masks.

"This will end," Lohr said. "Fayette County will get through this, and we will come out stronger on the other side."

In transitioning to the cautious yellow phase, Commissioner Vince Vicites also urged citizens to adhere to the state Department of Health's guidelines.

"As I said previously, I believed Fayette County would meet the state guidelines to move into the yellow phase sooner, rather than later," Vicites said. "It's still imperative that we stay safe, stay home when possible and stay strong."

As of Friday, the state Department of Health reported 84 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Fayette County, as well as four deaths.

For more information on counties' transitions to the yellow phase, visit www.governor.pa.gov.

For more information on COVID-19, including symptoms, treatments and outbreak updates, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov. For regular updates, visit www.facebook.com/fcema911 or www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

For more information, contact Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Kaylie Moore, Journalist, at 724-317-6924, kmoore@fayettecountypa.info.