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Gov. Beshear Outlines 7 Benchmarks to Reopen Commonwealth's Economy

Gov. Andy Beshear discussed benchmarks that the Commonwealth must meet in order to start reopening the state's economy while keeping Kentuckians safe from the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). The steps reflect federal guidance announced Thursday by the White House.

Benchmark criteria for Kentucky to move to the first stage:

- 14 days where cases are decreasing
- Increased testing capacity and contact tracing
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) availability
- Ability to protect at-risk populations
- Ability to social distance and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on large gatherings
- Preparedness for possible future spike
- Status of vaccine and treatment

Once Kentucky meets certain first stage benchmarks, the White House provided guidance on what the first stage of reopening could look like, which could include:

INDIVIDUALS:

- Individuals should continue to practice good hygiene
- People who feel sick should stay home
- All vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place
- All individuals, when in public, should maximize physical distance from others
- All individuals should avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, unless precautionary measures can be strictly observed
- Minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel

EMPLOYERS:

- Should continue to encourage telework
- If possible, should return to work in phases
- Close common areas
- Minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel
- Strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of a vulnerable population

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SPECIFIC TYPES OF EMPLOYERS:

- Schools and organized youth activities that are currently closed should remain closed
- Visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should still be prohibited
- Large venues (sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship) can operate under strict physical distancing protocols
- Elective surgeries can resume, as clinically appropriate, on an outpatient basis at facilities that adhere to CMS guidelines
- Gyms can reopen if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols
- Bars should remain closed
- For more information on the White House's criteria and all three proposed phases of reopening, visit www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica.