

REOPEN

Connecticut[®]

SAFER. STRONGER. TOGETHER.



Governor Ned Lamont

Sector Rules for Reopening

December 11, 2020

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

GOAL

Proactively protect public health and speed up the pace of economic, educational, and community recovery while restoring Connecticut's quality of life.

1

SAFETY FIRST

We will reopen society safely and securely with a proactive program that safeguards the health of our vulnerable residents, continues physical distancing, and provides clear safeguard rules for businesses and institutions deemed safe to reopen.

2

SCIENCE-DRIVEN

Our strategy will rely on a scientifically validated set of public health interventions. Patient assessment, testing, proactive tracing, field studies, and public health guidance will be deployed simultaneously to contain infection.

3

PREPARED

We will work closely with hospitals and health systems to procure and distribute critical personal protective equipment, and assess capacity of beds and ventilators to ensure optimal standard of care.

4

CHOICE

Individual businesses within sectors allowed to open are empowered to make their own choice on when they reopen. When they open, they must comply with rules we lay out to safeguard their employees and customers.

5

DYNAMIC

We include a suite of tools to inform an adaptive plan that can be nimbly scaled or rolled back rapidly based on real-time critical health metrics.

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

HOW WE WILL OPEN OUR ECONOMY SAFELY

Our plan to open the economy will address two factors:

WHAT businesses can open and when.

HOW businesses must operate **if they choose to open.**

WHAT:

- We know that some businesses put employees and customers at greater risk of transmission.
- We will prioritize opening businesses that pose a lower transmission risk and drive outsized impact on the economy.
- Transmission risk is defined as contact intensity and modification potential of businesses.
 - Contact intensity considers contact proximity, contact length, and number of contacts.
 - Modification potential considers the businesses' ability to socially distance and sanitize in accordance with regulations.
- We will assess the impact on state economic health with a focus on number of employed individuals, total GDP impacted, and impact on small businesses that make up the backbone of our economy.

HOW:

- We will provide clear operational guidance to businesses on how to reopen while ensuring the safety of both employees and customers.
- Guidance will include social distancing and hygiene, as well as the use of personal protection – for business operators, workers, and customers.
- The goal is to not only open safely, but create confidence in our society across employers, employees, and customers.
- The level of guidance will gradually become less restrictive over time, as our confidence in the ability to monitor and contain the disease increases.

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

WHAT: SECTOR REOPENING OVER TIME

The state will open its economy with a gradual approach.

The first set of businesses started reopening when we saw a sustained 14-day decline in hospitalizations, had adequate testing capacity, had a contact tracing system in place, and had procured sufficient PPE. The timing for that reopen was May 20th.

ALWAYS OPEN	Manufacturing Construction Real estate	Utilities Essential retail Child care	Hospitals
MAY 20TH	Restaurants (outdoor only, no bar areas) Outdoor recreation (limited capacity)	Remaining retail Offices (continue WFH where possible)	Museums, Zoos (outdoor only) University research
JUNE 1ST	Hair salons, Barbershops		
JUNE 17TH	Restaurants (outdoor, indoor, no bar areas) Hotels/Lodging All personal services Indoor recreation	Sports, Sports clubs & complexes, Gyms, Fitness centers, Pools Outdoor arts, Entertainment, Events (limited capacity)	Amusement parks Libraries Museums, Zoos, Aquariums Social clubs
JULY 20TH	Indoor events	Outdoor events	
SEPTEMBER 1ST	Senior Centers		
OCTOBER 8TH	Indoor Performing Arts Venues		

SECTOR RULES FOR REOPENING

HOW: SAFEGUARDS

As we continue to reopen businesses, we will open at our strictest controls on business operations and societal interaction. This will include, among other measures:

- Capacity limit of 50% for businesses that reopen.
- Strict cleaning and disinfection protocols in all settings.
- Those who can work from home should continue to do so.
- Those in high-risk groups (comorbidities) and over the age of 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home.
- Facemasks should continue to be worn in public at all times.
- Social gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of 5 people.

As we see progress on a defined set of public health metrics (detail to follow), we will gradually loosen safeguards. This will allow for the next set of businesses to open and potentially for businesses already open to operate with additional leeway.

As always, we will make decisions based on data and science. Our plan intentionally allows for sufficient time for learning, adoption of behaviors, and ultimately the achievement of improved health metrics that create the necessary environment for new business operations. If public health metrics deteriorate, the State may choose to revert back to stricter safeguards.



GENERAL BUSINESS RULES

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES

OVERVIEW

Businesses must exercise caution throughout the phases of reopening, ensuring strict adherence to the protocols listed here. Those businesses that are not able to meet these, shall delay opening until they are able.

Businesses should take these rules as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Connecticut. Individual businesses should take additional measures as recommended by industry guidelines or by common sense applied to their particular situation. We urge customers to stay vigilant and pay attention as to whether establishments they frequent are faithfully implementing these rules.

Businesses allowed to open after May 20th without industry-specific guidelines, including outdoor recreation.

BUSINESS HOURS

Pursuant to EO 9K, businesses may be subject to mandatory closing times which may be updated from time to time. All currently effective closing time mandates will be posted at the DECD Sector Rules page at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen>

SOCIAL DISTANCING

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Are based on the Governor's most recent Executive Order.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES

CAPACITY CONSTRAINT

Limit maximum occupancy to 50% of usual occupancy in any indoor space.

SIGNAGE

Post clear signage that reinforces new policies, like:

- Social distancing protocols
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Personal protection protocols (facemasks) for employees and customers
- Employees shall stay home if sick/experiencing symptoms
- Customers shall not enter if they are experiencing symptoms
- Additional signage can be found here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/COVID-19-Signage-for-Download>



SOCIAL DISTANCING MARKERS

Install visual social distancing markers to encourage employees and customers to remain 6 ft apart in common spaces:

- By placing markers along the queue for washrooms
- By marking as "out of service" any seating that does not fit the social distancing rules



SEATING/TABLE ARRANGEMENT

Rearrange space to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between customers when they may be seated (e.g., ensure tables are at least 6+ ft apart. This may require keeping some booths or seats empty. Distance shall be measured from the closest chair at one table to the closest chair at another table).



TOUCHLESS APPLIANCES

Install touchless appliances wherever possible, including:

- Paper towel dispensers
- Soap dispensers
- Water fountains



SHARED EQUIPMENT

Ensure employees do not share equipment to the extent possible. If shared, clean after each use.



HOTLINE FOR VIOLATIONS

Post clear signage that includes the state hotline (211) for employees and customers to report potential violations of these rules.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES



HAND SANITIZER

Hand sanitizer shall be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible.



HANDWASHING

Ensure employees wash their hands routinely using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



CLEANING, DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS, AND/OR DISPOSABLE DISINFECTANT WIPES

Make available near commonly used surfaces, where possible, like:

- High-transit surfaces (e.g., door handles)
- Check-out counters



SHARED BATHROOMS

Clean and disinfect frequently, and implement use of cleaning log for tracking. Clean multiple times a day and hourly during busy times.

- Recommend posting signage encouraging reduced capacity in bathrooms, and reminding individuals to wash their hands and wear a mask
- Consider placing a wastebasket outside of the bathroom



CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Follow federal guidelines (CDC, EPA) on what specific products should be used and how.

- Use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 and that are appropriate for the surface. Disinfectants are irritants and sensitizers and should be used cautiously.
- Prior to wiping the surface, allow the disinfectant to sit for the necessary contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Train staff on proper cleaning procedures to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants.
- Avoid all food contact surfaces when using disinfectants, these surfaces should be sanitized instead.
- Clean and disinfect common areas, high transit areas, and frequently touched surfaces on an ongoing basis (at least daily) and more frequently if used more often. Clean and disinfect shared objects after each use, including:
 - Elevators, including panels and buttons, door handles, etc.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES



PERSONAL PROTECTION

All employees and customers are required to wear a facemask or other cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth.

- Employees that cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition must provide documentation to their employer.
- Businesses have the right to refuse service to an individual who is not wearing a mask.
- Employers are responsible for providing personal protection to their employees.
- Gloves and eye protection are required when using cleaning chemicals.

TRAINING



TRAINING

Institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program prior to reopen. Training shall include:

- Rules contained in this document.
- Protocols on how to clean and use cleaning products (incl. disinfectants) safely.
- Additional guidance can be found here:
https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWD_EOHS_0.pdf

NOTE: If any on-site duties are subcontracted, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure subcontractors are also appropriately trained. The training shall be provided at no cost to the employee and during working hours. The training materials shall be presented in the language and at the literacy level of the employees. Employers shall continuously update staff on changes to these Sector Rules.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES



DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Ask employees resuming on-premise work to confirm they have not experienced COVID-19 CDC-defined symptoms and to monitor their own symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, or any two of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

Employees shall stay home if sick.



IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Employees shall inform their employers, and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols. In addition:

- Employee should contact local public health to initiate contact tracing
- Recommend 24-hour passive decontamination in the event of a positive case, and follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting



LEAVE

Employers shall adhere to federal guidance pertaining to paid leave for employees and provide this guidance to employees. Employers shall post the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Department of Labor poster. The poster can be accessed at:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/posters>

- Additional guidance can be accessed at:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>



WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Employers may not retaliate against workers for raising concerns about COVID-19 related safety and health conditions.

- Additional information can be accessed at www.whistleblowers.gov.
- Additional information for the public sector can be accessed at www.connosha.com.