Guiding Principles
for Re-Opening

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

The first priority in re-opening is maintaining the health and safety of all Floridians. Every measure taken by state and local governments, businesses, and individuals should consider the general health and safety of the public.

PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLE

Targeted measures should focus on Floridians over the age of 65 and those who have serious underlying medical conditions to prevent exposure to COVID-19.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM READINESS

Health facilities should be able to return to normal operations through a prudent approach that ensures available capacity to treat COVID-19 patients in the event of a medical surge. Health care systems also need to develop models for the sustainability of medical supplies and preservation of medical resources without the need for public augmentation of medical supplies.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan to re-open Florida should support the highest practicable level of business operation while maintaining public health and safety, so that all Floridians can return to work and the economy can recover.

PROTECTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES & MAINTAINING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Measures taken by the government must not impair the fundamental rights of Floridians, and when restrictive measures are imposed they should be the least restrictive measures feasible to accomplish a specific medically necessary objective.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan to re-open Florida must be rooted in sound medical judgement and driven by health metrics so that every Floridian feels safe as they return to work and their daily activities. An effective communications strategy is critical to ensuring public confidence in the COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities are partners with the state as the **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan to re-open Florida is implemented. Florida is a geographically large and diverse state and each of our local communities has unique insight into their individual circumstances. Local communities will play an important role in the plan to re-open Florida.

Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.
PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY

Roadmap
for Re-Opening

Florida's **Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.** plan to re-open is grounded in up-to-date data measuring COVID-19 spread, risk, and readiness. This plan is designed to mitigate the risk of resurgence and to protect the most vulnerable, while allowing for a phased path to economic recovery.

This plan should occur in four phases: Phase 0, which is the current phase we are in today; Phase 1; Phase 2; and Phase 3. Entry into each phase will be consistently evaluated in close consultation with public health experts and local government officials.

Current Phase > **Phase 1** > **Phase 2** > **Phase 3**

BENCHMARKS

Florida should track critical benchmarks on a statewide basis, the most important of which is hospital capacity to respond in the event of an unexpected surge of COVID-19. If the state shows consistent success, these guidelines contemplate advancement to the next phase. If, however, COVID-19 data suggests increased spread, the state should remain in the current phase. The state should continually review any sudden, unexplained spikes in the number of COVID-19 cases, while factoring in increases in testing and monitor any increases in hospitalizations. In extreme situations, the Governor may deploy a geographically targeted response in consultation with public health officials.

Benchmarks for Re-Opening

Using the *White House Guidelines for Opening up America Again* as a baseline, the Florida Department of Health has identified three data components that should be considered.

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Syndromic surveillance methods look at individual and population health indicators (such as characteristic symptoms of a particular disease). The objective of this surveillance system is to provide the data and analytic tools needed to identify outbreaks or unusual trends more rapidly, leading to timely public health responses.

Metric

a. Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI)

AND

b. Downward trajectory of COVID-19-like illnesses (fever, cough, shortness of breath)

Data Source: Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE): Florida's syndromic surveillance system.

AND

EPIDEMIOLOGY & OUTBREAK DECLINE

Outbreak data captures actual reports of positive cases and traces the causes of health outcomes and diseases. It includes the study of the distribution (frequency, pattern) and determinants (causes, risk factors) of diseases.

The objective of monitoring these data is to ensure the state is managing the spread of COVID-19 and employing effective mitigation measures.

Metric

a. Downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases

OR

b. Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests (flat or increasing volume of tests)

Data Source: Merlin, Florida's reportable disease data base.

AND

HEALTH CARE CAPABILITY

Data about hospital capacity and readiness shows whether the health care system is ready to respond in the event of an unexpected surge of COVID-19 illness. The ideal situation is for the system to be able to treat all patients without needing to use emergency surge plans and to have a robust COVID-19 testing program in place.

Metric

a. Capability to treat all patients without triggering surge capacity

AND

b. Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

Data Source: Emergency Status System (ESS) for bed availability data.