

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS'

RUNDOWN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Floridians,

The effects of COVID-19 have forever changed our way of life, but step-by-step, I believe Floridians are excited see the state gradually reopen. As we continue to monitor the threat of COVID-19, the Department of Financial Services is working every day to ensure we remain committed to addressing the impacts the virus has had on our communities and economy. Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced the Full Phase 1 re-open plan and I believe this step is great news for our hospitality, retail and tourism industries while ensuring Floridians can get back to work safely. More information on the Full Phase 1 is available below.

FULL PHASE 1

Effective Monday, May 18, 2020



State of Florida

RESTAURANTS & FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

- ✓ May increase indoor capacity to 50% with proper social distancing
- ✓ Outdoor seating encouraged

RETAIL

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity indoors

MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity if permitted by local governments

GYMS & FITNESS CENTERS

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity
- ✓ Self-sanitize machines and surfaces after use

AMUSEMENT PARKS

- ✓ May submit re-opening plan to the State

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS VENUES

- ✓ Professional sports teams are welcome in Florida
- ✓ Professional sports venues may open and operate for games, events and training

VACATION RENTALS

- ✓ Counties may seek approval to operate vacation rentals by submitting a written request and county vacation rental safety plan to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

ELECTIVE SURGERIES

- ✓ Elective surgeries may continue if a facility has adequate PPE, hospital bed surge capacity and works with the local community to prevent and/or contain outbreaks in long-term care facilities

BARBER SHOPS & SALONS

- ✓ Barber shops, hair salons and nail salons may operate while adhering to safety protocols effective May 11

SCHOOLS

- ✓ Students continue with distance learning

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

- ✓ Visitation in long-term facilities prohibited for COVID-19
- ✓ Hospitals required to test all individuals before discharge to long-term care facilities
- ✓ Long-term care facilities required to transfer COVID-19 positive residents if the facility is not equipped for appropriate care

Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.

PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY

In addition to this, I recently **announced** that in the next legislative session, I will pursue legislation to establish vital liability protections for businesses. We are currently working with stakeholders to craft legislation that will head-off predatory lawsuits, in order to protect Florida's economy and get Floridians back to work. The legislation will take away incentives for lawyers to engage in predatory 'sue and settle' tactics and shield small businesses from liability for COVID-19 related claims, while still allowing legitimate lawsuits to move forward.



Over the last two weeks, we have also seen a tremendous amount of wildfire devastation in the Panhandle and Southwest Florida. Last week, the Department **deployed seven Fire Strike Teams** from across the state to assist the Florida Forestry Service and local fire departments with the wildfires in Collier County. I cannot thank these brave men and women enough for their service and commitment to protecting our communities.

I encourage all Floridians to be aware and prepared for seasonally heightened wildfire activity. While our state continues to monitor and assist with the threat of COVID-19, Floridians must be proactive in preparing for the other threats to our safety, specifically during elevated wildfire conditions. As we've recently seen, wildfires can start quickly and engulf entire neighborhoods in a matter of hours. Check your local fire forecasts, inspect your property for any fire hazards, and make a plan to protect your family and your property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jimmy Patronis'.

Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

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