



Reopening with Care

Philadelphia's Strategy
for Moving to Green

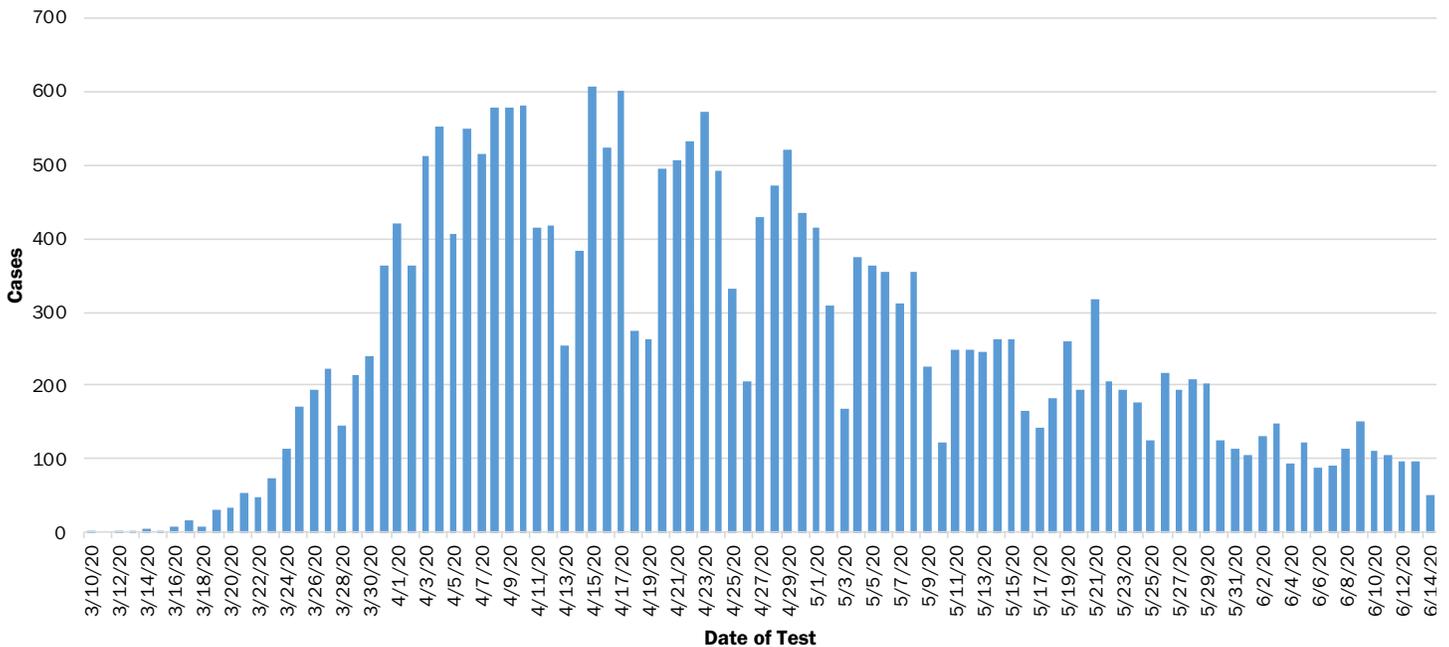


Progress Report

Under the **Safer at Home** strategy, Philadelphia has continued to make progress in the fight against the COVID-19 coronavirus. Daily case counts are falling, residents are wearing masks, and the number of patients hospitalized with the infection is steadily dropping—all despite recent protest activity. If progress continues through June, Philadelphia should be ready to carefully reopen additional activities in early July.

This report summarizes progress through June 15, establishes targets that would indicate if it is safe to restart some Green Phase activities, and clarifies what activities will and will not be allowed to restart when targets are met.

COVID-19 Cases in Philadelphia Residents



If progress continues through June, Philadelphia should be ready to carefully reopen additional activities in early July.

Containment

Testing

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health, working with a large group of partner organizations, is expanding testing availability and access, as well as increasing testing volume. The number of fixed test sites has increased to 56. The Department solicited proposals for additional testing services to reach vulnerable or hard-to-reach populations, received eleven proposals as of June 15, 2020, and funded the first proposal (from the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium) to conduct mobile testing. The number of tests conducted per day increased to 1,880 the week of May 24. Protests and social unrest caused the temporary closure of some testing sites on May 30, with a reduction to 1,500 tests per day; most sites reopened in early June and the number of tests increased to an average 1,790 per day during the week of June 7.

Contact tracing

The Department of Public Health is hiring staff to conduct contact tracing at the same time it is pilot-testing its procedures with existing staff. By July 1, the Department expects to have 70 staff hired, trained, and working to interview people with the infection, identify contacts, and counsel those contacts on quarantine.

Isolation and quarantine

Philadelphia has provided hotel rooms for isolation for persons with known or suspected COVID-19 infection, and for medically vulnerable persons from homeless shelters, residential treatment facilities, or living in unsuitable environments including the street. As contact tracing expands, additional persons in need of isolation and quarantine at specialized facilities will likely be identified. In addition, people are likely to be identified who can isolate or quarantine at home, but only with external support. The Department of Public Health is drafting a solicitation for service providers to provide this in-home support.





Social Distancing

On June 4, the City of Philadelphia allowed the restarting of Yellow Phase activities, including office-based businesses, non-food retail stores, and childcare centers; on June 12, the City allowed restaurants to begin providing outdoor dining. All Yellow Phase activities were asked to follow Safe Mode guidance to reduce the risk of COVID transmission. This guidance is being distributed in a variety of forms—including electronically, by mail, or in person—to businesses citywide. In addition, Philadelphia is developing a media campaign promoting use of masks that will launch in early July.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

After recognizing significant disparities in case rates, hospitalizations, and deaths among African American and Latinx city residents, the Department of Public Health developed an Interim Racial Equity Response Plan that addresses seven key areas of concern: access to COVID-19 testing; surveillance data; community outreach; chronic health conditions; protecting essential workers; community spread; and spread in congregate settings. The Department, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Mayor's Office, identified key City and community stakeholders and reached out to those stakeholders for their input on the plan. The first meeting of the stakeholder group took place the week of June 15.

The Department of Public Health is working with hospital systems and nursing homes citywide to further protect nursing home residents and staff from COVID transmission within the facility. This includes supporting the nursing homes' implementation of facility-wide testing of residents and staff, provision of personal protection equipment, consulting on infection control practices, and staffing support through the Medical Reserve Corps. The Department will work with the state Department of Human Services and local hospitals to establish formal affiliations between hospitals and nursing homes in which the hospitals help prevent the introduction or spread of COVID within nursing homes. The Department of Public Health is also supporting residential treatment centers and shelters for people experiencing homelessness to make them safer for staff and residents. This work includes expanded testing at congregate living sites.



Metrics and Targets for Progressing to Green

The Department of Public Health is using the metrics listed below to assess progress and will use these targets to determine when Philadelphia can safely enter the Green Phase of the response.

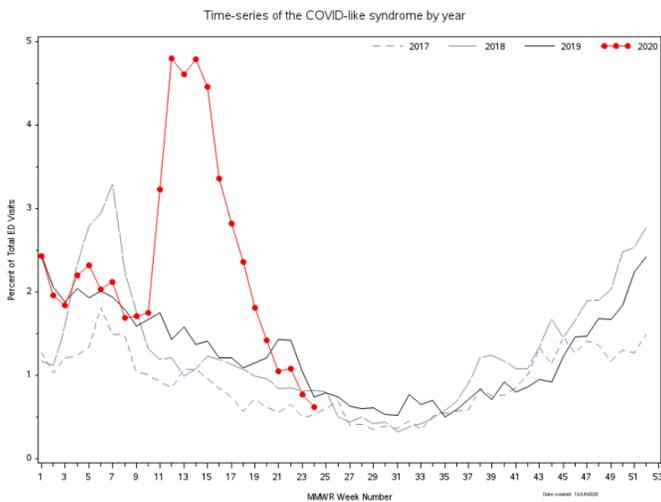
Factor measured	Metric	As of June 15	Target for Green	Goal
Presence of virus	Confirmed case counts	~100 per day	<80 per day, or <4% of tests positive if > 2,000 tests per day	<25 per day
Reproductive rate of virus	Trend in case counts (7-day moving average)	Decreasing for 8 weeks	Continued decrease for 4 weeks after Yellow	Continued decrease
Adherence to guidance	Mask use in interior public settings	~60%	To be determined	To be determined
Effectiveness of containment	Number of test sites	56	55	75
	Number of tests performed	1,750 per day (3.3% per month)	2,000 per day (3.8% per month)	5,000 per day (9.5% per month)
	Percent of cases* interviewed	~20%	70%	95%
	Percent of contacts* reached and agreeing to quarantine	~15%	40%	75%
Health care system capacity	Number of COVID-19 hospital inpatients compared to peak	72% below peak (285 patients)	75% below peak (250 patients)	>75% below peak (<250 patients)
Effectiveness of protections for vulnerable populations	Cases in nursing home residents	~2 per day	< 5 per week**	0 per day

* Excluding cases in congregate settings

**This target may be adjusted if many asymptomatic residents are identified through facility-wide testing, which is underway in June

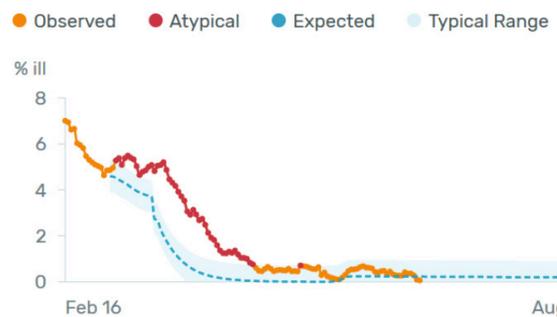
In addition, Philadelphia will be following two Early Warning Signs. The first of these—“syndromic surveillance”—tracks the number of people seen in hospital emergency departments with symptoms similar to COVID infection. After a spike during the months of March through May, this measure has continued to decrease through June 15. The second—the percent of internet-connected thermometer measurements showing fevers in Philadelphia-area residents—likewise showed atypically high values in March and April, but since then (through June 15) has been at levels typical for this time of year.

Trends COVID-like syndrome in hospital emergency departments



Percent of persons with fevers as measured by internet-connected thermometers

Philadelphia County, PA and surrounding area



Restarting Activities

If the targets are met (likely in early July), Philadelphia will progress to the Green Phase. However, with the COVID-19 coronavirus still circulating, **the Green Phase does mean not that all activities can restart. In the Green Phase, Philadelphia will prohibit or restrict some activities that are allowed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.** Below is a summary of activities that will and will not be allowed to restart in the Green Phase.

In addition, people leading these activities will be responsible for following Safe Mode guidance specific to the activity. The Department of Public Health will issue guidance for each of these sectors, including restrictions on the number of participants and other precautions like masking, physical distance between participants, handwashing, and other measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This guidance will be published in advance of the Green Phase restart date so that people can plan.

Activities that will be permitted in Yellow Phase beginning June 26, if progress on metrics continues:

- Residential swimming pools and private swim clubs
- Zoos (outside only)
- Personal services such as salons, barbers, and spas
- Small indoor social and religious gatherings (up to 25 people)

Activities newly allowed in the Green Phase in Philadelphia if targets are met:

- Outdoor group recreational and sports activities for youth and adults
- Gyms and indoor exercise classes
- Schools and colleges
- Museums and libraries
- Indoor shopping malls
- Outdoor performances and small outdoor events (up to 50 people)
- Restaurants with indoor seating (with occupancy restrictions)

Higher-risk activities that WILL NOT start immediately when Philadelphia reaches the Green Phase:

These activities involve higher risk because they involve crowds, people in close proximity, high-risk activities (such as eating, drinking, singing), or vulnerable populations. The activities will be allowed to restart subsequently and on different dates, based on the risk presented by each activity and the situation with the epidemic.

- Casinos
- Restaurants and bars with indoor seating (no occupancy restrictions)
- Large outdoor events (more than 50 people)
- Theaters and indoor events
- In-person conventions/conferences
- Large indoor social and religious gatherings (more than 25 people)
- Senior services involving gatherings (such as adult daycares)

 Mural Arts
Philadelphia

Artist: Calo Rosa
www.muralarts.org
#muralartsphilly #spacepadproject

WE ARE ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER

For more information on how to protect yourself
from COVID-19 visit <http://phila.gov/>