

## GOVERNOR SISOLAK'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON OPENING NEVADA

April 21, 2020, Provided by Michael Hillerby, Lobbyist for AIA Nevada

Governor Sisolak held an extended media briefing on April 21, to give an update on the COVID-19 situation in Nevada. It was widely expected he would address how and when Nevada would begin to re-open the economy. The [slide deck](#) and related information from the [press release](#) are available on the [www.aianevada.org](http://www.aianevada.org) and [www.aialasvegas.org](http://www.aialasvegas.org) websites. Below is a summary of how the Governor will determine when Phase 1 of re-opening might occur.

Significant news included his announcement that schools will remain closed and conduct distance education through the remainder of this school year. He also described, in the broadest possible terms, how Phase 1 would be handled. He will be looking to the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to make sector-specific recommendations on how businesses might re-open using appropriate social distancing and other safety measures. He also said Michael Brown, GOED Director, would be working with professions and licensing boards on these issues. The Governor gave hypothetical examples, but was clear that these decisions had yet to be made. He was equally resolute in refusing to talk about a potential date for Phase 1. There remains significant uncertainty on what Phase 1 will look like. Hopefully these unanswered questions will be addressed in coming days.

Per the attached materials, the Governor and Nevada experts will look at the following [Criteria](#) to determine whether the state is ready to move into the first phase of re-opening

- A consistent and sustainable downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations over a 14-day period measured by a decrease in the trend of COVID-19 hospitalizations; and a decline in percentage of people testing positive Healthcare and Public Health Systems should be able to maintain hospital capacity without crisis standards of care, have a sufficient public health workforce capacity between the local and state health departments to conduct case contact tracing (detect, test, trace, isolate), have the expanded ability for healthcare providers to administer tests for symptomatic patients, and have sufficient laboratory testing capacity to process COVID-19 testing samples
- A sustained ability to protect vulnerable populations, meaning that outbreaks are successfully contained and closed in special settings like health facilities and nursing homes
- Confirm protective measures are in place before moving to the first phase – social distancing practices are followed, including a strong recommendation that members of the public, employees, and healthcare providers wear masks for the purpose of source control