A Plan to Reopen Fort Lauderdale: Phase One

Mayor’s working group

- Dan Lindblade, president and CEO of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
- Bob Swindell, president and CEO of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance
- Gino Santorio, president and CEO of BrowardHealth.
- Dr. Eduardo Locatelli, chief medical information officer at Holy Cross Hospital.
- Colleen Lockwood, president of the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations.
- Phil Purcell, president and CEO of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida.
- Kelley Shanley, president and CEO of Broward Center for the Performing Arts.
- Tim Petrillo, CEO of The Restaurant People.
- Jeff Johns, CEO of Damn Good Hospitality
- Miguel Pilgram, founder and owner of the Pilgram Group.
- Amaury Piedra, general manager of Pier Sixty-Six Hotel and Marina.
- Pio Ieraci, president of the Galt Mile Community Association.
- Michael Weymouth, president of the Las Olas Co.
- Sonya Burrows of Burrows Electric.
- Abby Laughlin, president of Sandbox 101.
- Jenni Morejon, CEO of the Downtown Development Authority.
- Melissa Milroy, senior marketing manager of The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale.
- Genia Ellis, president and CEO of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale.
- Sheryl Woods, president of the YMCA of South Florida.
- Brett Atkinson, co-president of Moss Construction.
- Andrew Gordon, employment law attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson.
- Clayton Flotz, owner of Powerhouse Gym.
- Bill Brown, president of the Central Beach Alliance.

Community guidelines for reopening from White House and Centers for Disease Control

- A downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period.
- A downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported in a 14-day period.
- Either a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period or a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period.
- Hospitals treat all patients without crisis care.
- Robust testing program is in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.

Broward County's analysis: Is the area at Phase One yet?

- There has been a downward trajectory of flu-like illness reported within a 14-day period.
- There has been a downward trajectory of COVID-19 like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period.
- While there has not been a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period, there has been a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period.
- The hospital system is able to treat all patients without crisis care.
- Robust testing criteria is **not** met.

Opening Up America Again

Criteria 1: Downward Trajectory of Symptoms Reported

Chart 1

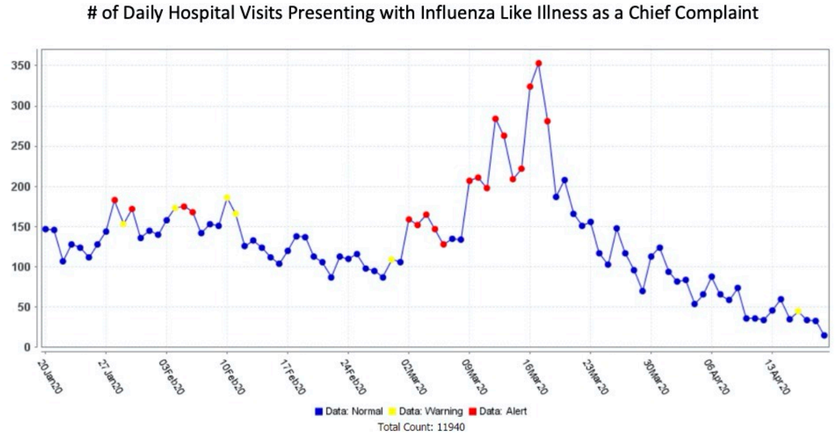
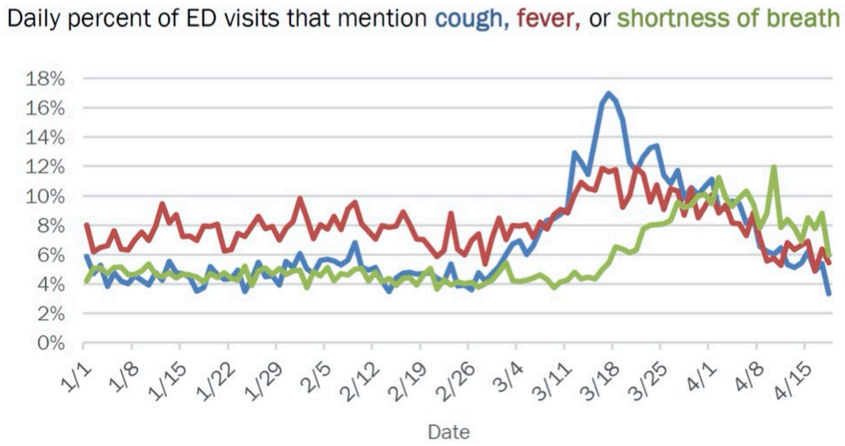


Chart 2



Opening Up America Again

Criteria 2: Downward Trajectory of Reported Cases/Positive Tests Results

Chart 3

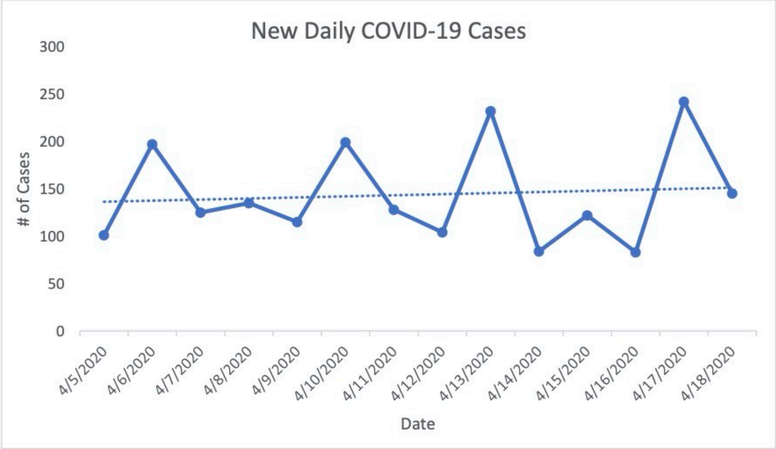
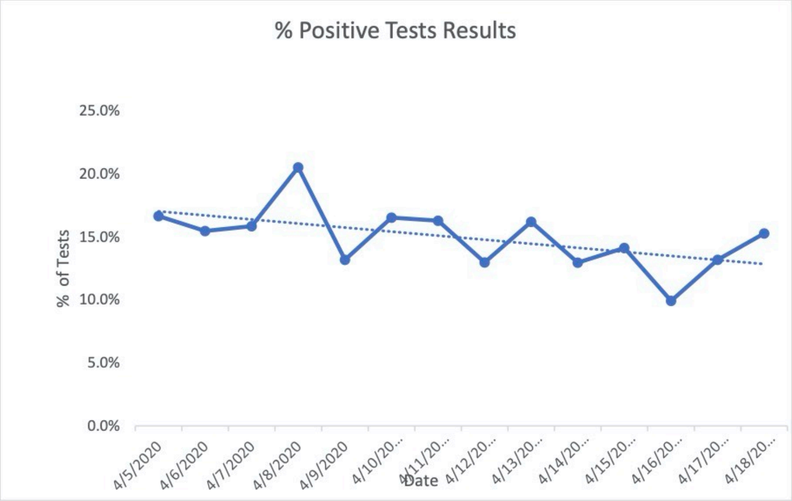


Chart 4

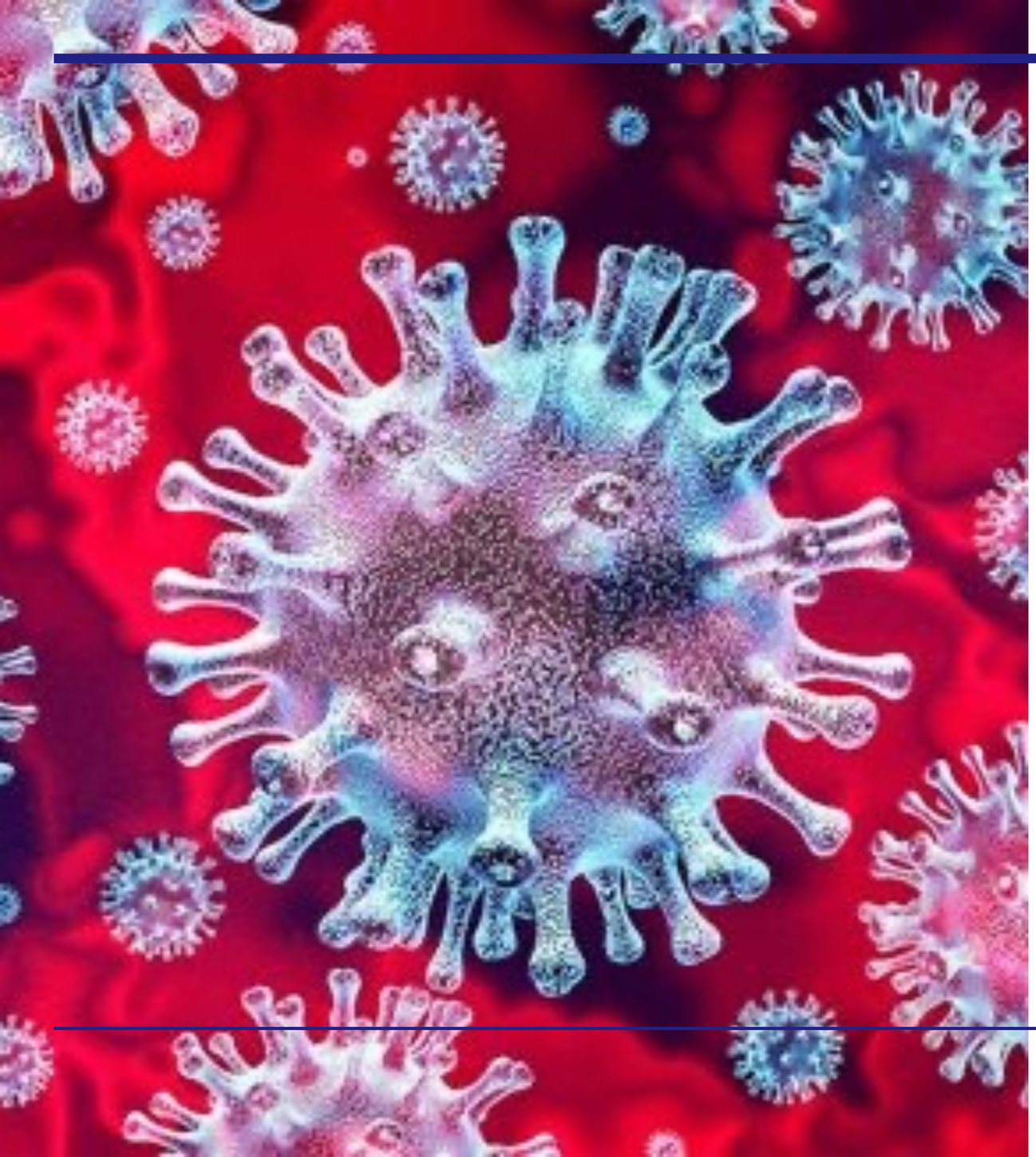


The remaining issue: Addressing testing needs

- City is near an agreement with state and Broward County to open a testing site at Holiday Park.
- The Holiday Park site supplements the current six sites in Broward at C.B. Smith Park, Central Broward Park, Cleveland Clinic, Festival Marketplace, Mitchell Moore Park and the Urban League of Broward County.
- Broward County has asked the state to distribute locally 20,000 of the 100,000 antibody test kits that it has ordered.
- The county is in negotiations to procure additional antibody testing kits to supplement the state's supply.
- The county is working with a university and healthcare professionals to conduct a serology study for COVID-19 using these antibody test kits.
- Broward County is set to begin in-home testing for at-risk individuals.

Words of caution about opening too soon.
National Governors Association's Roadmap to Recovery

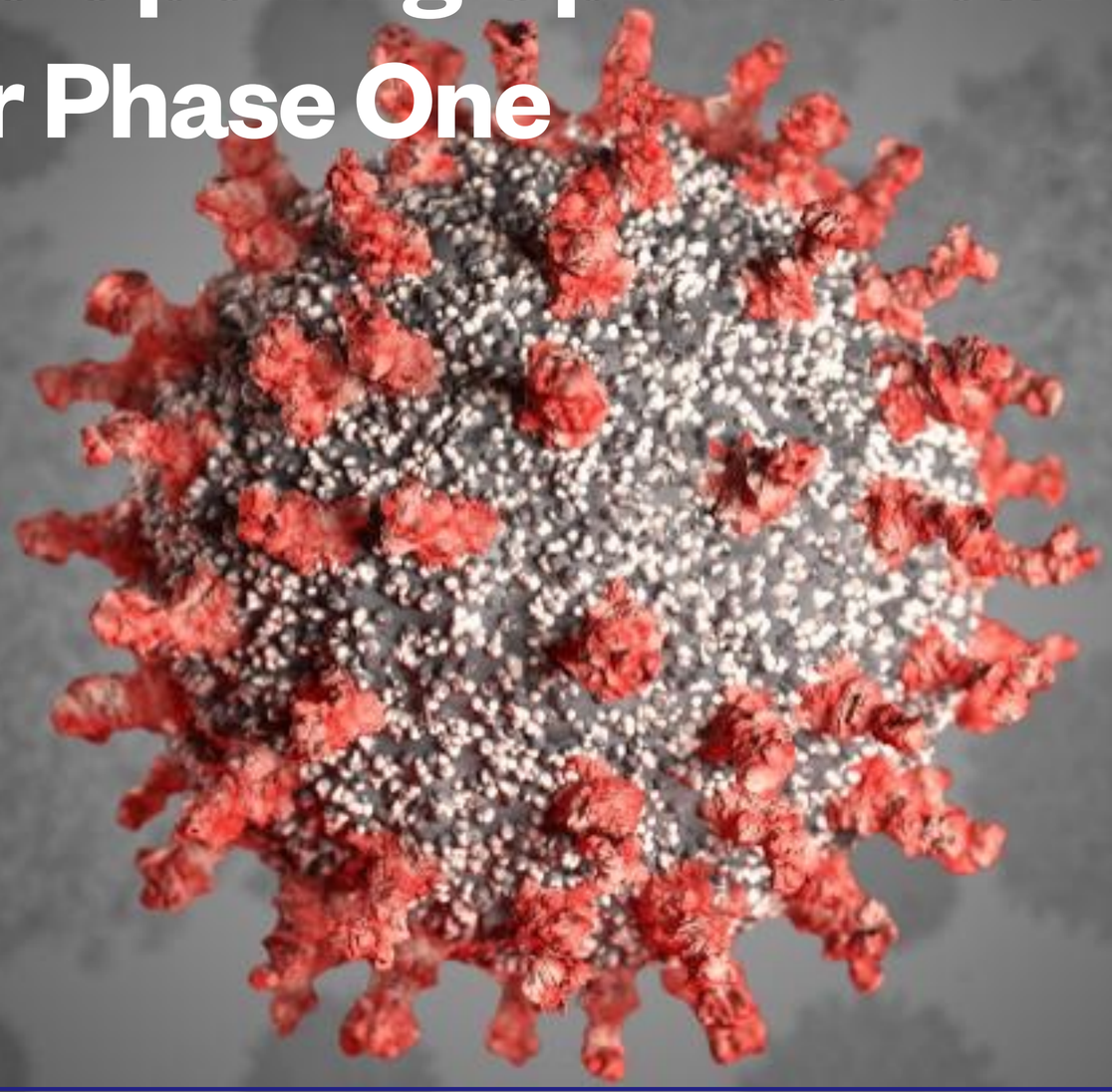
"Opening prematurely — or opening without the tools in place to rapidly identify and stop the spread of the virus — could send states back into crisis mode, push health systems past capacity, and force states back into strict social distancing measures."



Cautionary data

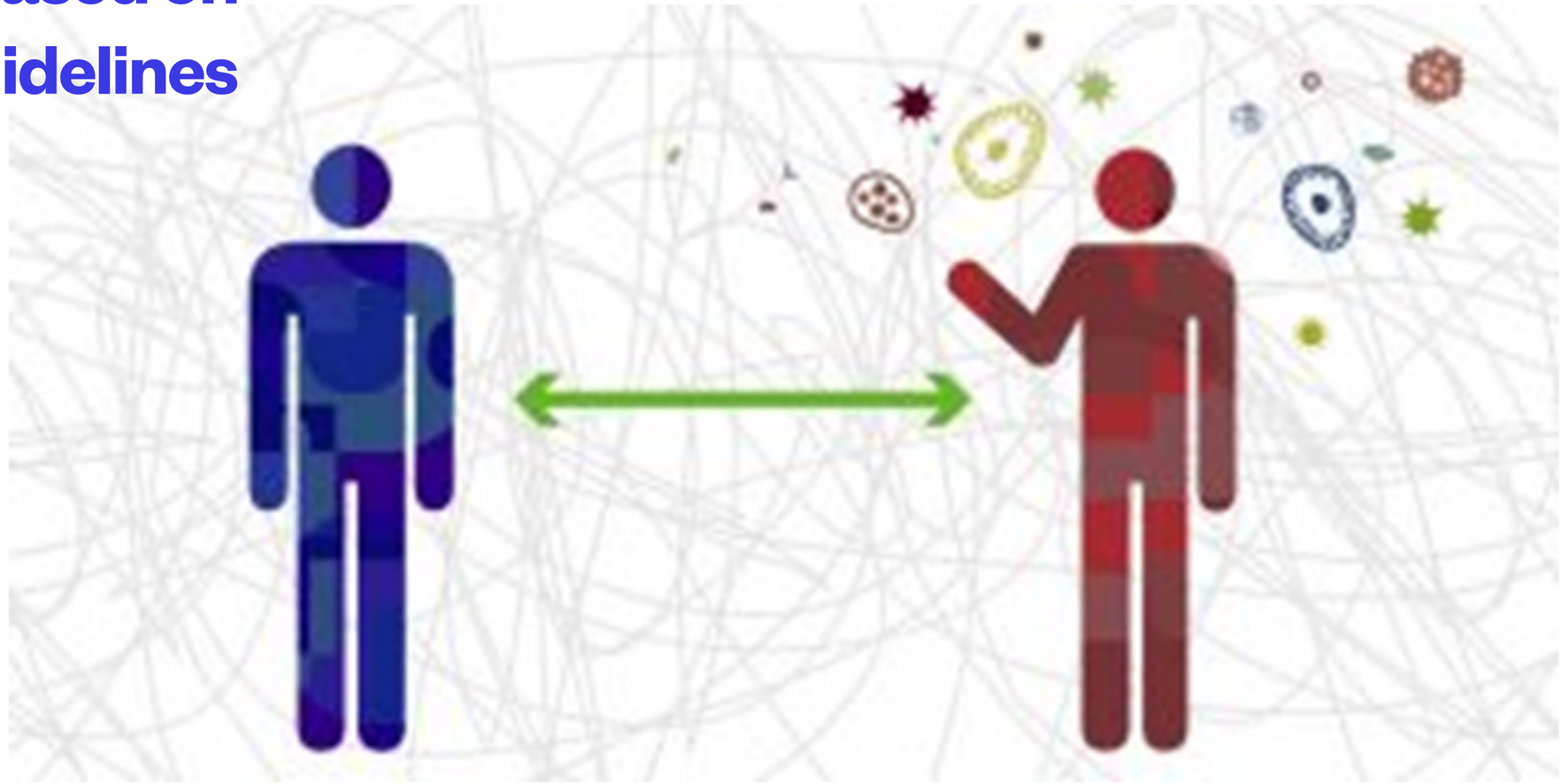
- Data for April 23 showed the highest number ever posted of new positive test results statewide and one of highest number of new infections recorded in Broward County.
- The University of Washington analysis of COVID-19 infection and response recommends social distancing not be relaxed in Florida until after June 14.
- The American Enterprise Institute recommends a sustained reduction of COVID-19 cases for 14 days.
- The Center for American Progress recommends transmission decreases to a rate of 20 new COVID-19 cases per million people per day and a sustained decline in positive cases.

White House’s Opening Up America Again: Guidelines for Phase One



- Vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place.
- All individuals should maximize physical distance when in public. Social settings of more than 10 people should be avoided unless precautionary measures are observed.
- Avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing such as receptions or trade shows.
- Minimize non-essential travel.
- Continue to encourage telework.
- If possible, return to work in phases.
- Close common areas of businesses where personnel are likely to congregate and interact or enforce strict social distancing protocols in the workplace.
- School and organized youth activities such as daycare or camp that are currently closed should remain closed.
- Visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be prohibited.
- Large venues such as sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues and places of worship can operate under strict physical distancing protocols.
- Elective surgeries can resume.
- Gyms can open if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Bars should remain closed.

Mayor's Working Group:
A plan for Fort Lauderdale upon entering Phase One based on White House-CDC guidelines



General Recommendations

- **A regional approach**. Fort Lauderdale should act as much as possible in conjunction with the other cities in Broward County, but more likely as part of a unified effort between Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties. This would ensure the least amount of confusion among the public and provide consistency and stability for businesses and consumers.

- **Local option fallback**. At the same time, city leadership should respect local differences between Fort Lauderdale and neighboring communities. The city must be prepared to proceed alone if it feels the other parties are significantly out of alignment with Fort Lauderdale's opinions. Opinions should be based on medical evidence, not political expediency.

- **A set reopening date with lead time**. This is essential for the successful reopening of businesses. They need time to organize and train staff, prepare their properties to meet the new standards and restart their supply chains.

- **A communication plan**. There must be clear, concise and widely distributed communication of the reopening plan in order to instill maximum public confidence. The public must have faith that the plan ensures public health and safety are protected. Part of that involves easy access to reliable data about COVID-19 in the community. Spanish and Creole formats are necessary.

- **A contingency plan**. The city — and any partners — must develop a contingency plan to continually analyze the data of virus spread so they can detect any rebound, whether the rebound is occurring in a particular community or business field or amenity. The plan must also address how a rebound would be handled.

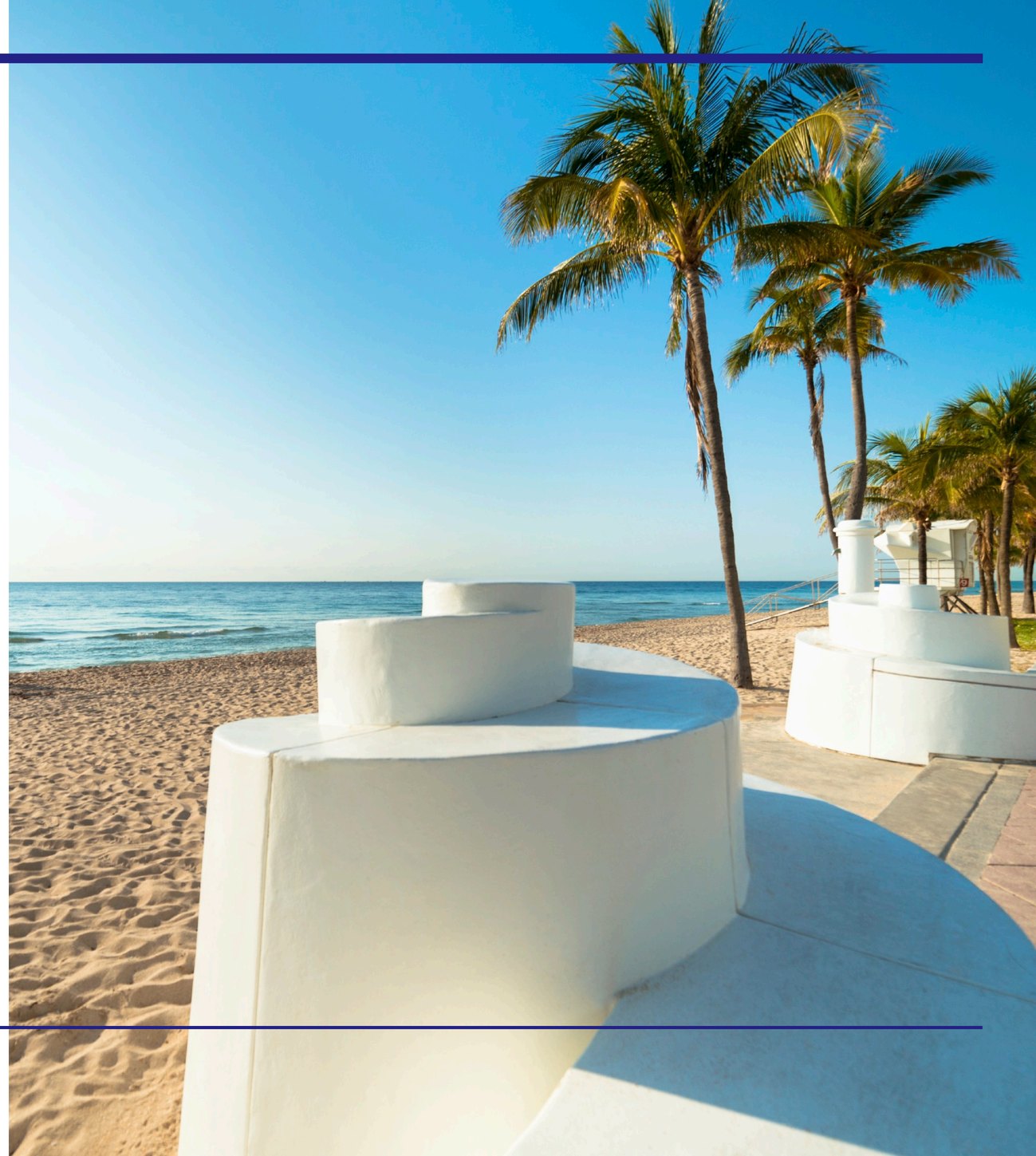
- **A plan for Phase Two**. Fort Lauderdale must prepare for Phase Two. According to the White House-CDC plan, Phase Two occurs when there is no evidence of a rebound and when the Phase One criteria are satisfied for a second time.

- **Enhanced city maintenance**. A clean community appearance will inspire confidence among the public. As such, the city should increase street cleaning and trash pickup in high-impact business and amenity areas. City should consider hand-sanitizing stations in these areas as well.

- **Open streets**. The city should consider closing the lanes on Las Olas to expand outdoor dining availability and allow more social distancing for walkers. A lane closure on State Road A1A to allow more social distancing for walking is also recommended.

- **Parking**. The city should consider waiving parking fees in the downtown-Las Olas area to allow easier patronage of restaurants and businesses.

Recommendations: Fort Lauderdale amenities



Beaches

- Undertake a phased and coordinated reopening of the beach.
- Passive activities should be permitted such as walking, jogging, swimming with social distancing of six feet.
- Sunbathing, lounging, congregating and contact sports would be prohibited. Beach chairs and other concessions would be prohibited.
- Normal hours of operation would be in effect.
- Senior times should be considered.
- Opening date should occur on a weekday to minimize first-day disruptions and complications.
- Hand-sanitizing stations should be established.

Parks

- City parks should open for passive use only.
- Playgrounds, indoor facilities, exercise equipment, dog parks, campgrounds and pools should remain closed. Multi-use fields, basketball courts, racquetball courts and similar sporting areas remain closed.
- Individual groups of more than 10 people are prohibited. Social distancing of six feet is required. City should install hand-sanitizing stations in larger parks.
- Tennis for singles-play only is allowed.
- Pedestrian trails will be one-way.
- Face masks must be worn except while exercising.

Boating and waterways

- Boat ramps are allowed to open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. One boat would be allowed per launch at a time. Vessels must be prepared in advance to launch. All passengers must board the vessel once it is launched, and the vessel must immediately leave the slip.
- Boats must remain 50 feet apart at all times in the water. Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. Rafting up of boats is prohibited. Beaching and landing of boats is prohibited.
- Sandbar remains closed.
- Kayak/canoe launches can reopen.

Golf courses

- Golf courses may reopen with modifications to game play and interactions in order to comply with the social-distancing guidelines of six feet.
- For example, the cup could be raised one inch out of the hole and any putt that hit the cup would be considered holed. Players would be advised not to touch or remove the flagsticks.
- Only one player would be permitted per cart and all players would be required to remain six feet apart to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Hand-sanitizing station should be set at start of course.

Community recreational amenities

- Recreational amenities at condominiums, cooperatives and apartment complexes are allowed to reopen under certain restrictions.
- Pools at associations may reopen as long as six feet of social distancing is maintained. Chaise lounges must be set six feet apart, and provisions must be provided for their sanitization after each use. Signage is required at the entrance to the pool stating these requirements. A hand-sanitizing supply should be readily accessible.
- Gyms at associations may reopen as long as equipment is appropriately spaced for six feet of social distancing. Provisions must be made for the regular sanitization of equipment. Signage about the requirements must be posted. Hand sanitizing supply should be on hand. ****Commercial gyms are addressed later in this report.*

Recommendations: Fort Lauderdale businesses

General business rules

- Telework should continue to be encouraged.
- Employees must wear masks in office when within six feet of someone else.
- Employers must have a plan to conduct employee health checks to prevent ill employees from working.
- Employee common areas at businesses should be closed.
- Social distancing of six feet should be required as much as practical.
- Regular and more intense cleaning is advised, particularly with bathrooms.
- Hand-sanitizing stations or supplies should be provided.

Retail stores

- Employees and customers must wear masks.
- Hand sanitizer must be available near the entrance to the store. Signage about hygiene and the social distancing requirement of six feet must be present at the entrance.
- A limitation on space should be set whether it is a percentage of legal capacity or a number of occupants per square foot.
- Employers must have a plan to conduct employee health checks to prevent ill employees from working, preferably taking temperatures upon start of shift.
- Regular cleaning throughout the day is required.

Restaurants

- Restaurants may reopen at 50 percent of their legally allowed capacity with an emphasis on outdoor dining. Tables should be set to comply with the six-foot social distancing standards.
- Masks and gloves must be worn by all staff.
- Employees should have their temperature taken at the start of their shift. Ill employees may not work.
- Host stations must be sanitized once an hour. Tables and other dining areas must be sanitized after every use. Bathrooms need regular, more thorough cleaning. Restaurant must have a deep cleaning before each opening.
- Menus should be single-use and disposable.
- Buffets are not allowed.
- Reservations should be emphasized over walk-ups in order to prevent congregations in the waiting area.
- Patrons must have temperature taken upon entrance, with ill customers rejected.
- Hand-sanitizer provided at entrance.
- Hygiene signage is required at entrance.

Hotels

- Hotels may re-open to general customers with restrictions.
- Hand-sanitizing dispensers at entrances and other prominent locations throughout the property. Hygiene signage at all entrances and in back-of-house area.
- Guest rooms must be thoroughly sanitized after every check-out. Valet parking must include sanitizing of vehicles.
- Employees must wear masks. Guests must wear masks in common areas with exception of recreational amenities. Gloves must be worn by housekeeping staff, public area employees and security personnel.
- Elevators are limited to four passengers.
- Elevators and public areas should be sanitized several times a day.
- Guest entrances should be limited with temperatures taken upon entrance, with guest showing high temperatures rejected.
- Employees must have temperatures taken at beginning of each shift and sent home if ill.

Hair salons, barbers and nail salons

- All employees and patrons must wear face masks.
- Employees must wear gloves.
- Employees must have temperature taken at start of shift, with sick employees sent home. Patrons must have temperature taken upon entrance and rejected if ill.
- Work space must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Social distancing of six feet between work stations is required.
- Hand-sanitizer must provided at entrance. Hygiene signage is required at entrances.

Gyms

- Gyms are allowed to open with restricted use.
- Employees must wear face masks. Employees must have temperature taken at start of shift, with sick employees sent home.
- Patrons must have temperature taken upon entrance and rejected if ill.
- Hand-sanitizer stations must be provided at entrance, and all members must sanitize on entrance and exit. Social distancing markers should be placed in front of the membership desk. Hygiene signage must be present at all entrances.
- Machines and equipment stations must be appropriately distanced to meet the six-foot social distancing requirement. Capacity of facility must limited to one member for every 200 square feet.
- Staff must be on floor to constantly sanitize equipment. Members are required to sanitize equipment after use.
- Fitness classes must maintain the six-foot social distancing standards between participants.
- Basketball and racquetball courts are closed. With child-care programs, temperatures must be taken upon entrance with sick children rejected.
- Sauna facilities must remain closed. Showers must be closed with the exception of gyms that have pools. For those facilities, the showers must be used for entering the pool. However, the showers in these cases must be cleaned after every use. Aquatic programs must have limits on the size of classes to meet the six-foot social distancing requirement. Lap-lane sharing is prohibited.

Museums

- Employees and customers must wear masks.
- Hand sanitizer must be available near the entrance to the store. Signage about hygiene and the social distancing requirement of six feet must be present at the entrance.
- Timed tickets will be limited to five people per 1,000 square feet of public space.
- Online ticket sales will be encouraged with guests being asked CDC recommended questions regarding health and travel history as part of the ticket purchase process.
- Before entering, staff, vendors and visitors must have their temperature checked and anyone with a fever will be refused admission.
- Regular cleaning throughout the day is required.
- Guides or maps preferably should be through mobile apps, otherwise they must be single-use and disposable.
- Summer children's programs must use assigned spaces with a limit of 20 students per classroom with social distancing. All students will have their temperatures checked before entering each day.

Prohibitions

- Bars must remain closed.
- Nightclubs and entertainment venues, including theaters, movie houses, social halls and bowling alleys, must remain closed.
- Public events are prohibited.
- Special workings groups should be established to make recommendations to the mayor and the City Commission for Phase Two and Phase Three restricted openings of entertainment venues and public events.