

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

Marlene Brissenden, County Commissioner

Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse
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Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS OK GOVERNOR'S PHASE ONE; SOME BUSINESSES REOPENING

WINNEMUCCA, Nev— Some Humboldt County businesses reopened as early as Saturday, May 9, per Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak's "[Roadmap to Recovery for Nevada](#)"—a phased approach to re-opening the state's economy.

Friday, May 8, the Humboldt County Commission accepted Phase One of the Governor's plan during an emergency meeting. Commissioners agreed the state's thoughtful approach to emerging from the pandemic not only will benefit business owners, but will keep local consumers safe.

"I think we should be very clear what our plans are," Commission Chairman Ken Tipton told fellow board members at the onset of the meeting. "I think we should go with the Governor's plan the way he has it laid out."

While the "Roadmap" provides latitude for officials to tailor specific requirements per each county's needs or specific circumstances, Commissioners said they did not believe additional restrictions were necessary.

"It boils down to doing the right things," said Commissioner Jim French of business owners. "It's going to be up to businesses to maximize their opportunities and minimize their risk."

The plan allows for some "non-essential" businesses to open, like restaurants; barber shops, hair salons and nail salons; and retail businesses.

However, employees at all businesses will be required to socially distance and wear face coverings where possible to minimize the health impacts of COVID-19.

Among the myriad recommendations and requirements, some businesses will be asked to limit the number of customers at their facility to 50 percent of allowed occupancy, while others will require customers to wait outside until their appointment.

Per the Governor's plan, gaming establishments; gyms and fitness facilities; and entertainment and

recreational venues such as movie theatres and bowling centers will remain closed.

“This phased approach to re-opening our economy will allow us to move forward with a careful and balanced approach to our county’s health and economic needs,” said Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola following the meeting.

Mendiola said if infection rates and hospitalizations related to COVID-19 go up, local business will have to scale back to protect public health and save lives.

That goes for a single business as well, said Mendiola. “If we are seeing infections tied to one operation, we will need to put further restrictions in place, which could include closure until we can find a solution.”

The Governor’s [Directive 018](#) grants county and city governments the ability to suspend and revoke licenses or issue penalties for violations that could affect the public’s health, safety or welfare.

In a [follow-up document](#) to Thursday’s “Roadmap” release, the state provided guidance for 13 specific industries, from Agriculture and Auto Dealerships to Real Estate and General Office Environments.

Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, expressed concern that face coverings are not required for customers in businesses that necessitate close contact, like barber shops and salons.

However, he also reminded that business owners are strongly encouraged to ask customers to wear face coverings. Dr. Stringham expressed hope that business owners and customers will choose to do the right things to protect themselves and others without having to be pressed.

“Previously our safety has been assured by various restrictions, and those restrictions afforded a certain amount of safety,” he said. “Now that safety will depend upon our own actions to keep us safe.”

Mendiola said Commissioners recognize the impact business closures have had on families, workers and businesses.

“While instituting Phase One of the plan is a huge step forward, we have not yet won the fight against this virus, so we need to remain vigilant,” he said.

Last week, Governor Sisolak extended his stay-at-home order until May 15; however, the current plan allows for businesses to re-start as early as Saturday, May 9.

Mendiola reminded business owners to return the questionnaire they received from Humboldt County asking for their detailed reopening plan.

“The Governor will rely on data and metrics to determine if the state can move from one phase to another,” said Mendiola, “and we want to show we are ready to open all business in the safest, most achievable way possible.”

Business owners may direct any questions regarding their business reopening or operation with relation to COVID-19 to the Humboldt County Manager's Office at (775) 623-6300, or via email at COVID19@humboldtcountynv.gov.

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