

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Senator Daniel Hemmert
Major General Jefferson S. Burton
Co-Chairs

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Utah State Capitol
350 North State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert:

In accordance with Utah Code § 53-2c-202, the Public Health and Economic Emergency Commission met on April 20 and 21, 2020 to discuss recommendations regarding the state's response to the COVID-19 emergency. Specifically, the Commission discussed a plan for the state to operate under an economic and health guidance level that is immediately below the highest risk economic and health guidance level and reasonable guidelines under which health care providers may perform elective surgeries and procedures and under which restaurants may resume or continue normal operations.

By unanimous vote, the Commission makes the following recommendations.

The Commission recommends that the Governor adopt and implement the orange level of public health guidance as described in the "Utah Leads Together" plan prepared by the Economic Response Task Force dated April 17, 2020.

The Commission also recommends that the Governor adopt and implement the orange level guidelines described in the "Phased Guidelines for Businesses to Maximize Community Health and Economic Reactivation" prepared by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget and the Utah Department of Health, with the following changes:

- except as described below, revise spacing guidelines to be consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation of six feet between individuals rather than 10 feet; and
- for gyms and fitness centers, replace the guideline that there be one patron per 120 square feet with a guideline that patrons maintain 10 feet of space between themselves and other individuals.

The Commission recommends that the Governor immediately allow time-sensitive ambulatory surgeries to resume under recommendations issued by the Utah Hospital Association and under the guidance of the Utah Department of Health, taking care to be sensitive to the needs of, and maintaining hospital capacity for, high-risk groups.

The Commission recommends the Governor allow restaurants to operate under the guidelines described in the appendix of the Phased Guidelines for Businesses to Maximize Community Health and Economic Reactivation with the following changes:

- in accordance with CDC guidelines, allow groups of up to 10 individuals rather than six and require tables to be spaced six feet apart rather than 10 feet; and
- change the signage requirement to a recommendation or require the state to provide the signage.

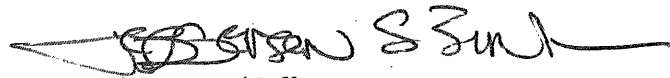
The Commission also recommends that the state make a concerted effort to assist businesses with the burden imposed by required personal protective equipment, employee screening equipment, and employee and customer health supplies and that the Legislature consider modifying alcohol laws to ensure compatibility with the recommended guidelines.

Finally, the Commission recommends that the Commission review the guidelines described above every two weeks or more frequently as new information and data become available.

Sincerely,



Senator Daniel Hemmert
Co-Chair



Major General Jefferson S. Burton
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