

MARKETS & ECONOMY

Inman's state-by-state guide to reopening the economy

As the coronavirus pandemic gradually improves, a patchwork of plans to reopen local economies has emerged across the US

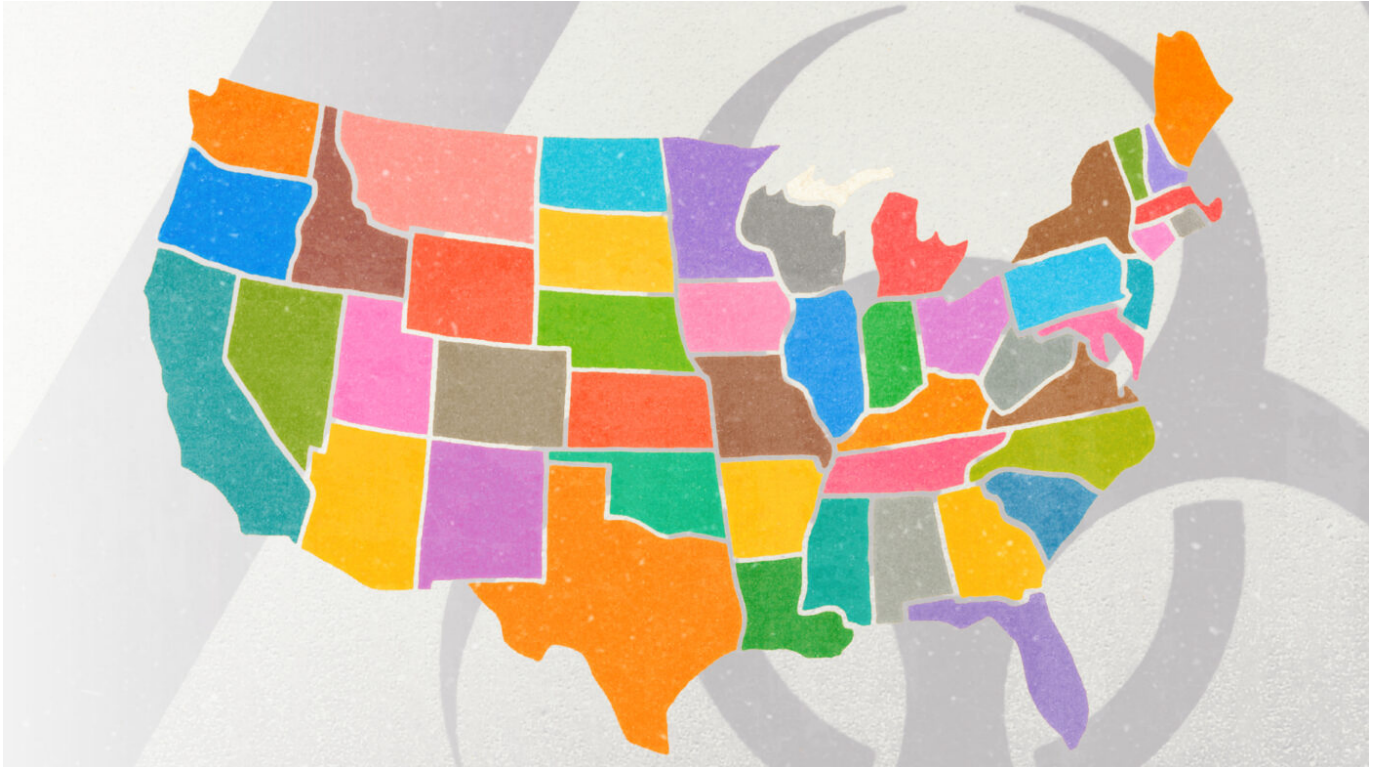


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BY [JIM DALRYMPLE II](#) | Staff Writer

May 06, 2020

Though it may seem like a lifetime ago now, it has been almost exactly two months since the [coronavirus pandemic](#) began shutting down the U.S. economy. In the time since, almost every aspect of Americans' lives has changed. Millions [have lost jobs](#). Real estate activity [is falling](#). And, on the plus

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this point, it looks like a vast, complicated patchwork in which every state is pursuing reopening in a slightly different way.

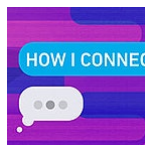
To makes sense of what's going on, Inman has summarized the reopening process from all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Scroll down to find your state, but also know that the situation is fluid and restrictions are changing quickly. We'll do our best to keep this list current, but also let us know if your state needs updating.

It's also worth mentioning that we've noted if states designated real estate as "essential" or not. This matters because it speaks to how much reopening will impact agents. In states without essential designations, agents may be dependent on the wrapping up of broader isolation mandates in order to conduct basic business activities. In states that designated real estate essential, on the other hand, agents generally had more freedom during the pandemic, though reopening should give them additional flexibility as well.

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Alabama

businesses [are allowed](#) to reopen as long as they adhere to social distancing requirements. Restaurants, however, are still limited to curbside takeout. Gyms, entertainment venues, barbers and a handful of other businesses will also have to remain closed for the time being.

Real estate [was deemed an essential business](#) in Alabama, meaning agents could proceed with activities such as showings during the pandemic. However, the Alabama Association of Realtors [has discouraged](#) holding open houses, and advised industry professionals to take other precautions.

Alaska

Businesses in Alaska began reopening on April 24. The reopenings included limited operations for restaurants and retail establishments, among other things, and were part of Gov. Mike Dunleavy's multi-phase plan to spool up the economy. Officials have a tentative deadline of May 8 for the next reopening phase, though it isn't yet clear what that phase may involve. Dunleavy has also [suggested the deadline could move](#) depending on how the outbreak progresses in the coming days.

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Real estate [was included](#) among Alaska's essential services.

Cars line up as they prepare for coronavirus testing at a site in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 27. Credit: Christian Petersen and Getty Images

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Agents in Southern states on board with economic reopening

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Arizona

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey [said on April 29](#) that restaurants and other businesses will have to remain closed for the time being and will likely open at the earliest on May 12.

Ducey has also said that elective surgeries could resume beginning May 1.

Arkansas

Arkansas did not implement a statewide stay-at-home order, but did impose various other social isolation restrictions that included closing non-essential businesses. Gov. Asa Hutchinson said on April 29 that restaurants will [be allowed to reopen](#) with limited capacity on May 11.

The state [allowed](#) elective surgeries to resume beginning April 27 and state parks [will reopen on May 1](#).

Real estate showings have been allowed [to continue](#) through the pandemic in Arkansas.

California

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home order does not have an expiration date. However, on April 28 Newsom and other officials [unveiled a phased reopening plan](#) and said that the state is “weeks, not months, away from making meaningful modifications” to ongoing restrictions. The state is currently in the first [phase of its reopening plan](#). The second phase will include more relaxed rules for businesses such as restaurants and retail stores.

On May 4, Newsom [said](#) that some retail stores might be allowed to open for curbside service by the end of the week. However, that reopening would not include restaurants, offices and some other types of businesses.

Newsom has also [said that some manufacturing could resume](#) on May 5.

Subsequent stages of California's plan would allow movie theaters and concert venues to reopen but, again, there is no firm deadline for those stages.

California's beaches have seen a mix of closures and openings. During a heatwave over the final weekend of April, beaches in the Los Angeles area were generally closed. However, beaches in nearby Orange County were open and ended up [seeing a massive influx of people](#).

Garcetti, for example, has [mandated](#) that showings take place remotely. The California Association of Realtors [has also said](#) that agents should not do open houses and that “showings should be done virtually, if at all possible.”

It was not immediately clear at the end of April when such rules might be lifted.

Migrant farm laborers have their temperature checked on April 28, 2020 in King City, California. Credit: Brent Stirton and Getty Images

Colorado

Colorado’s stay-at-home order ended April 26, after which the state entered what it calls a “[safer-at-home](#)” phase of economic reopening. Under the new rules, non-essential businesses can reopen for curbside activity and residents are encouraged, but not required, to stay in their houses. The new phase also

In practice, [in-person showings will only resume](#) in a handful of counties in the southern part of the state. In other counties, including Denver, local isolation orders have been extended and still prohibit in-person showings.

Colorado [will allow](#) retail businesses to reopen on May 1. “Non-critical offices” can reopen on May 4.

Real estate is considered an essential service in Colorado, though obviously there are restrictions.

Connecticut

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont’s stay-at-home order [extends](#) through May 20. On April 30, Lamont [outlined](#) a four-stage reopening process that will begin once the order ends. The first stage of the plan will allow the reopening of stores, offices and outdoor restaurant areas. Dates for each of the stages are not fixed, but it could reportedly take up to 10 months to reach the final step in the process.

Real estate was [designated](#) an [essential business](#) in Connecticut. The state’s Realtor association has [urged](#) industry professionals to take various safety precautions such as limiting showings.

Delaware

Delaware’s stay-at-home order [is scheduled to last](#) until May 15, “or until the public health threat is eliminated.” Gov. John Carney [has said](#) that it will take 28 days of declining coronavirus cases to reopen the state’s economy.

Delaware did not designate real estate an essential service, and Carney’s order required offices to shut down. Open houses were also banned. However, while real estate professionals are encouraged to avoid in-person contact, [they can continue showings](#) and in-person meetings when necessary and while practicing social distancing protocols.

John

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a stay-at-home order April 1, and the order expired on April 30. Beginning May 4, restaurants and retail businesses in most of the state can [reopen](#), but only with limited capacity. Patrons will also be required to social distance.

Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties — which represent both the state's most populous area and the the locations of most coronavirus cases — are [excluded](#) from the reopening orders and businesses there will have to remain closed.

Beaches in some parts of Florida [have also already reopened](#).

Agents in Florida [have also told Inman](#) that they look forward to the economy reopening.

Real estate is [considered](#) an essential service in Florida.

Players wearing face masks warm up at the Miami Beach Golf Club on April 29. Credit: Cliff Hawkins and

Georgia

Georgia has been among the most aggressive states for reopening the economy. Gov. Brian Kemp [allowed](#) gyms, bowling alleys, barbers and a variety of other businesses to reopen on April 24. Movie theaters and dine-in restaurants were [allowed to reopen](#) on April 27. Restaurants that are welcoming customers to sit down have to follow a set of guidelines for social distancing.

Restrictions on vacation rentals in Georgia [expire on April 30](#).

Georgia considered real estate an essential service, and agents in the state [told Inman](#) that they had continued showings during the pandemic, albeit while taking safety precautions.

Hawaii

On April 25, Hawaii Gov. David Ige [extended](#) his stay-at-home order to May 31. The order requires mandatory two-week quarantining for travelers.

On April 29, Ige [said](#) that businesses such as golf courses and car washes that require limited social interaction will be allowed to reopen on April 30. Florists were also allowed to resume deliveries on May 1. Additionally, Ige has said people can run, jog, walk and surf at beaches as long as they maintain social distance.

Ige later [said](#) that shopping malls, retailers and a variety of other businesses could reopen on May 7.

Real estate [is among](#) Hawaii's essential services.

Idaho

Idaho Gov. Brad Little's "order to self-isolate" expired April 30. Little has outlined [a multi-stage plan](#) for reopening the economy. The first phase could begin between May 1 and May 15, though the state has to meet a specific set of

The plan currently envisions restaurants and other businesses opening, with restrictions, during “stage 2.” Idaho could reach stage 2 sometime between May 16 and 29, according to the plan, but again only if it meets certain criteria regarding the outbreak.

Idaho has [designated](#) the sale and transfer of real estate an essential service.

Illinois

Illinois has had a stay-at-home order in place since March 21, but in late April Gov. J.B. Pritzker extended the order until May 30. However, [the new extended order](#) does allow use of state parks, extends essential service designations to greenhouses and garden centers, and allows retail stores to open for online orders or pickups.

Pritzker [has said](#) he hopes for a wider economic reopening by June.

Real estate has been considered an essential business in Illinois during the pandemic, though the state’s Realtor association [has noted](#) “that social distancing and preventive measures are essentially mandated.”

Amtrak police patrol the mostly-shuttered food court inside of Union Station on April 28 in Chicago.
Credit: Scott Olson and Getty Images

Indiana

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb [has indicated](#) a gradual reopening of the economy could begin May 1, when the state's stay-at-home order expires. Details about the reopening are [expected](#) in the coming days, but Holcomb has already been [reaching out](#) to the business community to discuss safety precautions.

Simon Property Group [has said](#) it plans to reopen 10 malls it operates in the state between May 1 and May 4.

Real estate is [considered](#) an essential service in Indiana.

Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds' [state of emergency order](#) closed non-essential businesses but did not require Iowans to stay at home. On April 27, Reynolds [announced](#) that businesses such as restaurants, gyms and malls in most counties could

On May 5, Reynolds [signed an order](#) that allows businesses such as dentists, tanning salons, campgrounds and others to reopen later in the week.

A handful of counties will see restrictions remain in place until at least May 15.

Iowa's emergency orders do not appear to have singled out real estate as an essential or non-essential service. However, real estate agents in the state have reportedly [continued practicing](#).

Kansas

Kansas' stay-at-home order was originally set to [expire](#) on April 19, but was later [extended until May 3](#). Gov. Laura Kelly is [expected](#) to provide information on less restrictive [rules in the coming days](#). The rules [should allow](#) for some public gatherings in which social distancing is still possible, though full details on the plan are still forthcoming.

Real estate is [considered](#) an essential business in Kansas.

Kentucky

Kentucky began reopening on April 27 when it [started allowing](#) some non-essential medical procedures. Gov. Andy Beshear expects the state to [embark](#) on a four-week process of gradually rolling back isolation rules beginning May 11. Restaurants [will be able to reopen](#) their dining rooms, albeit with limited capacity, on May 22.

Gyms and theaters will be allowed to reopen on June 1.

Beshear has [indicated](#) bars may not open until July.

The Kentucky Derby, which normally takes place in early May, was [postponed](#) until September.

Louisiana

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards [has extended](#) his state's stay-at-home order until May 15. Business activity such as nail salons and limited restaurant dine-in service is expected to resume after the order ends, though the state will have to meet a set of outbreak mitigation criteria first. Edwards is [expected](#) to provide details about reopening May 11.

Despite the extended isolation orders, [restaurants can begin offering](#) limited outdoor seating with no waiters and other limitations, on May 1.

Real estate [is an essential service](#) in Louisiana.

Protestors outside the Louisiana state capitol during a rally against Louisiana's stay-at-home order and economic shutdown on April 25 in Baton Rouge. Credit: Chris Graythen and Getty Images

Maine

shops, pet grooming businesses and car dealerships to reopen beginning May 1, though large public gatherings and other activities will still be prohibited.

The [second stage](#) of the plan should allow restaurants, gyms, retail stores and other businesses to reopen. Mills anticipates moving to that stage of the plan in June.

Real estate is [considered](#) an essential business in Maine.

Maryland

As is the case in other states, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has a [multi-stage plan](#) for reopening the local economy. The plan does not include specific dates, though Hogan has [reportedly said](#) he wants to reopen “rapidly, but not recklessly.”

The [first stage of the plan](#) would see small retail shops reopen, the return of elective medical procedures, and allow limited outdoor gym and religious activity. Stage two would involve limited reopening of restaurants, and stage three would see the state permit large social gatherings.

Taking a cue from [federal guidance](#), Maryland [considers](#) real estate an essential service.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker’s emergency order [requires](#) non-essential businesses to remain closed until May 18. On April 28, Baker [expressed](#) sympathy for those hard-hit by the crisis, but did not provide a date for when businesses in the state might be able to resume something resembling normal activity.

Real estate [is an essential service](#) in Massachusetts.

Michigan

state is [taking a regional approach](#) that will allow certain areas to open up after meeting various benchmarks. There are no firm dates on when businesses generally will resume operations, though Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is [expected to let](#) the construction industry resume activity in early May.

Real estate workers in Michigan are not considered essential workers. [According to the state](#), that means they cannot leave their homes for work unless they are providing “food, shelter, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.”

Minnesota

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz allowed various businesses with industrial, manufacturing or office operations to resume work on April 27. The move allowed between 80,000 and 100,000 people to return to work, according to the [governor's statement](#) on the move. Reopened businesses have to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

However, the state's stay-at-home order remains in effect through May 4. It was not clear at the end of April when other businesses, such as restaurants, would be able to resume normal operations. Walz said in his statement that officials are considering “ways to gradually loosen restrictions starting with settings most conducive to safe practices.”

Minnesota [considers](#) real estate an essential service.

Mississippi

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves [has issued a “safer in place” executive order](#) that went into effect April 27. The order [allows some retailers to open](#), but with limited capacity. Movie theaters, salons and other businesses remain closed. Restaurants are also still limited to take-out and delivery options.

Real estate is [designated](#) an essential service in Mississippi.

Planes belonging to Delta Air Lines sit idle at Kansas City International Airport on April 3 in Kansas City, Missouri. Credit: Jamie Squire and Getty Images

Missouri

Missouri's [stay-at-home order](#) expires on May 4, at which time all businesses will [be allowed to reopen](#) as long as they follow social distancing guidelines. That includes restaurants and other businesses. Social gatherings will also be allowed as long as participants practice social distancing.

Local officials do have the option to impose their own stay-at-home orders, and in [St. Louis](#) and [Kansas City](#) such orders have been extended to mid May.

Missouri [is using federal guidelines](#) during the pandemic, which define real estate as an essential business.

Montana

Montana ended its stay-at-home order April 26 and [retail businesses were allow to open](#) the next day. Restaurants, bars, casinos and other similar

employees work from home where possible.

Businesses such as gyms and theaters remain closed and there is not a set date for when they'll be allowed to reopen.

Montana schools [were allowed](#) to open on May 7, though districts get to decide if they will actually resume classes.

Gov. Steve Bullock has [designated](#) real estate an essential service.

Nebraska

Nebraska [will begin loosening restrictions](#) on May 4. The [new rules](#) will allow restaurants and other businesses such as barber shops in a majority of counties to reopen, albeit with various capacity limits. Bars, movie theaters and some other businesses will have to remain closed until May 31.

State officials [have said](#) they cannot regulate which real estate activities happen during the pandemic, and the industry has not been designated either essential or non-essential. However, officials have also urged members of the industry to be “cognizant of the situation.”

Nevada

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak said on April 29 that [he plans to extend](#) his stay-at-home order beyond its April 30 expiration date, though he did not immediately say how long the extension might last. Sisolak has loosened rules regarding medical procedures, but there is no set reopening date for businesses such as restaurants and entertainment venues.

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman [garnered attention](#) in mid April over her calls for the reopening of casinos. However, Sisolak said on April 29 that [casinos may not reopen](#) until the third or fourth phase of the state's reopening plan. Additional details are expected in the coming days.

Real estate [is an essential service](#) in Nevada.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu's stay-at-home order extends through May 4. Sununu has said that [he will release details](#) about his reopening plan at the beginning of May. A task force [has been studying](#) how to reopen, but as of the final days of April the state had not provided specific dates for the reopening of retail and service-oriented businesses.

New Hampshire has [designated](#) real estate an essential service.

New Jersey

New Jersey [will reopen](#) parks and golf courses on May 2. However, Gov. Phil Murphy's stay-at-home order otherwise remains in effect until further notice and without an expiration date. There is [no set deadline](#) for a broader reopening of the economy. Instead, the state has set public health benchmarks it wants to hit before returning the economy to normal.

Murphy [has said](#), though, that he expects reopening to begin within weeks, not months.

He also [designated](#) real estate an essential business in his state, though agents do face restrictions such as not being allowed to hold open houses.

New Mexico

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said on April 23 that "we're not ready to ease up" and [extended the state's stay-at-home order](#) until May 15. However, the extended order [does allow](#) some businesses to resume some operations as of May 1. Among other things, non-essential retailers can operate carry-out services, gun stores can open by appointment and golf courses can reopen (though they can't serve food). Offices, restaurant dine-in service and other businesses remain closed.

Additionally, an official with Albuquerque city [said](#) that golf courses in his jurisdiction would be opened on May 2.

New Mexico has [designated](#) real estate an essential service.

New York

The pandemic hit New York harder than any other state. As a result, non-essential businesses in the state have been ordered to stay closed until May 15.

On April 28, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [provided initial details on a phased](#) reopening in the state. The first phase, which could [begin as early as mid May](#), will let lower-risk businesses in industries such as construction and manufacturing resume operations. The second phase of the plan should allow businesses “considered ‘more essential’ with inherent low risks of infection” to reopen. However, the plan does not spell out what specific businesses that might entail or when the state might enter its second reopening phase.

The plan also does not mention when service industry businesses will be able to resume operations. Moreover, there is reportedly [no set date](#) for the reopening of parks and beaches.

New York is also [taking a regional approach](#) that requires certain parts of the state to meet health benchmarks regarding things such as testing.

Real estate’s status in New York during the pandemic has also been the subject of some confusion. The state initially didn’t include the industry as an essential service, then [provided updated guidance](#) saying that activities such as home showings could continue. But soon thereafter, the state clarified [that showings should only take place virtually](#). Ultimately, some specific real estate activities such as appraisals are considered essential and are allowed to continue during the pandemic, [according](#) to the New York State Association of Realtors.

Passengers wearing protective gear ride the New York City subway on April 28. Credit: Jeenah Moon and Getty Images

North Carolina

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper has [issued a stay-at-home order](#) that extends through May 8. Afterward, Cooper plans to “lift restrictions in three phases once the data show that key metrics are headed in the right direction,” according to a statement. Progress through those stages will depend on testing, tracing and trends the outbreak exhibits. Though there are no dates yet associated with the plan, the first phase could see some retail businesses reopen. The second phase should come two to three weeks later and would involved limited reopenings of restaurants, bars, gyms and other businesses.

The final phase would take place four to six weeks after the second phase begins.

Real estate [is an essential service](#) in North Carolina.

North Dakota does not have a sweeping stay-at-home order like other states, though it has required the closure of restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and other businesses. That [changes on May 1](#), however, when most businesses in the state will be allowed to reopen. Those businesses that do reopen will have to follow social distancing guidelines and capacity limits laid out in the state's "[ND Smart Restart](#)" plan for firing up the economy.

North Dakota did not single out real estate for a designation as either essential or non-essential, meaning that agents could continue practicing during the pandemic.

Ohio

Reopening in Ohio [will begin on May 1](#) when the state eases restrictions on medical procedures. Construction, manufacturing and offices will be allowed to resume operations on May 4, followed by retail and service businesses on May 12. Any businesses that reopen will [have to follow various safety guidelines](#) meant to minimize the spread of the coronavirus.

Restaurants, barbers and schools will all remain closed for the time being. Two advisory groups [are currently studying](#) when such entities should reopen.

Real estate [is considered](#) an essential business in Ohio.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma [allowed](#) salons and barber shops to reopen on April 24. A broader, three-phase reopening [begins on May 1](#) and will see restaurants and [malls](#) resume service. Bars [are included in the second phase](#) of Gov. Kevin Stitt's reopening plan and are scheduled to welcome customers back on May 15.

Oklahoma [considers](#) real estate an essential service.

Oregon

“framework for reopening” in mid April, but so far the state has not committed to any specific dates.

A handful of counties spent the final days of April [urging Brown](#) to let them open non-essential businesses.

Real estate was not mentioned on [Brown's lists](#) of either allowed or disallowed activities during the pandemic.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf [has set a target](#) of May 8 for his state to begin reopening. The plan will involve first [easing restrictions in 24 counties](#), followed later by additional measure across the entire state.

Wolf's plan will only see restaurants and bars reopen during the [third and final phase](#) of the plan, though retail activity could return during the second phase. Either way, though, there are no set dates for when those phases will begin.

However, some local officials [have said](#) they will begin the first steps toward reopening the economies in their cities as soon as May 1.

Real estate in Pennsylvania is [not considered](#) an essential activity.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Gov. Gina M. Raimondo [announced](#) a reopening plan on April 27. The plan may begin as early as May 9 — one day after the state's stay-at-home order expires — and will initially allow small social gatherings and some limited restaurant activity beyond takeout and delivery service. The second phase of the plan will allow more restaurants to open, as well as resumed operations for retail businesses and salons. Offices and more businesses will be able to reopen during the third phase of the plan.

However, the state has not said when the second and third phases of the plan might begin.

person open houses, and industry professionals in the state are required to abide by the general rules that limit gatherings.

An arriving traveller fills out a form for the National Guard at TF Green Airport on March 29 in Warwick, Rhode Island. Credit: Scott Eisen and Getty Images

South Carolina

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster began reopening his state last week when he [announced](#) that on April 20 beaches and some retailers would be allowed to reopen. Despite those early steps toward reopening, on April 27 McMaster also extended his state of emergency until May 12. The order extends the state's stay-at-home mandate and means further reopening efforts will likely have to wait. McMaster [has also reportedly said](#) he wants to have the economy "humming" by June.

Real estate was not covered in South Carolina's emergency orders.

South Dakota did not issue a statewide stay-at-home order and [did not require businesses to close](#). Some businesses did eventually close, but Gov. Kristi Noem [unveiled](#) a “back to normal” plan on April 28 that encourages employers to practice safety guidelines while resuming operations. Noem has [encouraged](#) both businesses and schools to allow limited gatherings.

Because South Dakota didn’t force businesses to close, real estate was allowed to continue without needing a designation as essential.

Tennessee

Tennessee has been [gradually moving back](#) to normal since April 24, when state parks first reopened. Gov. Bill Lee [allowed](#) restaurants in most counties to reopen at 50 percent capacity on April 27. Gyms can [reopen](#), also with restrictions, on May 1. The reopenings are part of a multi-phase return to normal in the state.

Lee’s stay-at-home order [expired](#) April 30.

Real estate is considered an essential service in Tennessee.

Texas

Texas will let restaurants, retailers and some other businesses [resume operations](#) on May 1, though they will have severely limited capacity. Gov. Greg Abbott [said](#) on May 5 that hair salons and barber shops can reopen on May 8.

Abbott [has said](#) that looser restrictions [could begin on May 18](#), though that timeline depends on how the outbreak fares in the coming weeks.

Texas [follows federal guidelines](#) that deem real estate an essential service.

Utah

Utah never implemented a statewide stay-at-home order, instead [opting](#) for a “stay safe, stay home directive” that closed restaurants but merely encouraged

their own isolation mandates that shut down businesses and other non-essential activities.

Utah [took its first steps toward reopening](#) in mid April when Gov. Gary Herbert reopened state parks. On April 28, Hebert [announced](#) that beginning May 1 the state would allow gatherings in small groups. Restaurants will also be allowed to offer dine-in service, though they would have to practice “extreme precaution.”

Real estate is considered essential in Utah, meaning that in-person showings are allowed.

Vermont

Gov. Phil Scott [has issued](#) a state of emergency that is in place until May 15. However, as of April 20 [limited activities](#) including home appraisals were allowed to resume. Some construction, manufacturing and outdoor retail was [allowed to](#) reopen on April 27. Farmers markets can open May 1.

The state has not said when other commercial activity might be able to resume.

Real estate is not considered an essential business in Vermont, which means agents [are required to halt in-person activity](#).

Virginia

In Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam's [stay-at-home order is in effect](#) until June 10. There are no set dates for reopening the state's economy. Northam [has previously said](#) that there must be two weeks of declining cases before Virginia can enter the first phase of its reopening process.

However, on April 29 Northam did [announced](#) that elective medical procedures could resume.

According to Virginia Realtors, [it was unclear](#) if state mandates considered real estate an essential service. As a result, real estate offices were not required

Washington

Governor Jay Inslee's stay-at-home order was set to expire May 4, [though he said](#) on April 29 that it will be extended. He did not provide details on the extended order's expiration date.

Some construction [was allowed to resume](#) on April 29, and most state parks in Washington will reopen on May 5. However, the state has not released a reopening timeline for other sectors of the economy.

Real estate [is considered an essential service](#) in Washington.

Fishermen take part in a "Let Us Fish" protest in Seattle on April 26. Credit: David Ryder and Getty Images

Washington, D.C.

officials need to see a drop in the number of cases for two weeks before proceeding. The district currently has an open-ended stay-at-home order in place.

Bowser ordered real estate offices to “close to all but minimum business operations” during the pandemic. Agents are not allowed to hold open houses, but can show homes to individual buyers. Financial transactions are considered essential.

West Virginia

West Virginia began reopening its economy on April 30. The reopening plan includes a series of stages that are set to take place over a period of six weeks.

The first phase loosens restrictions on medical procedures. The next phase, which should begin during the first week of May, will allow for outdoor dining at restaurants and the reopening of businesses such as salons and pet groomers. Subsequent phases will allow for more openings, though the state has provided fewer details about how that will work. Progression through the phases is also contingent on progress fighting the outbreak.

West Virginia has designated real estate an essential service.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has extended his state’s stay-at-home order until May 26. In the meantime, however, businesses such as pet groomers, lawnmower repair shops, some car washes, vehicle rental companies and others were allowed to resume operations on April 29. However, they were only allowed to reopen if they could provide contactless services.

Golf courses, construction companies and a few other types of business have also been allowed to resume limited operations.

Real estate is considered essential in Wisconsin.

John

Wyoming does not have a statewide stay-at-home order, though Gov. Mark Gordon [did require](#) businesses such as restaurants and bars to close through April 30. Beginning May 1, gyms, barber shops and similar businesses [can reopen](#). Gordon has not said when other types of businesses can resume operations.

Wyoming does not appear to have created a list of essential businesses, which means real estate should be able to continue through the pandemic.

Updated: May 7, 8:16 p.m. EDT

Updated: May 6, 7:45 p.m. EDT

Updated: May 5, 8:33 p.m. EDT

Updated: May 4, 6:16 p.m. EDT

Updated: May 1, 11:58 p.m. EDT

Updated: April 30, 6:45 p.m. EDT

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