



COVID-19 Bulletin 5/21/20

UPDATE: Reopening Guidance & Safety Plan Template

Buffalo Niagara's economy took a step forward with the following Phase One industries reopening Tuesday:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Retail - **Curbside Pickup**
- Wholesale Trade Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting

As a reminder, New York State has [released detailed guidelines](#) for all Phase One industries. The guidelines also contain a Business Affirmation Form that allows a business to acknowledge it has read the guidance and understands its obligation to operate accordingly.

Having a written, clear and available reopening safety plan is a critical part of the reopening process. New York State has provided a [Business Safety Plan Template for employers to use](#). Employers in subsequent industry phases should begin to prepare their reopening safety plan now.

Reopening your business has both human resource and legal implications you need to consider. [Watch our most recent webisode which provides best practices employers need to know.](#)

Employee Screening

Employee screening is a necessary component New York's reopening guidance. Buffalo Niagara Partnership member Employer Services Corporation has provided two templates employers can use and adapt to help remain in compliance with this mandate.

- [COVID-19 Employee Daily Health-Screening Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Employee Health-Screening Questionnaire](#)

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is now widely available in Buffalo Niagara. Testing is an essential part of safely reopening our economy. You can find information about testing protocols and locations in WNY on our [COVID-19 Resources & Impacts](#) page under Health & Safety Updates.

PPP Forgiveness Update

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued detailed guidance on how to apply for forgiveness on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. The U.S. Chamber has produced a [guidebook](#) with an easy to understand explanation. This guidebook will be updated as the federal government releases new guidance.

There is serious bipartisan discussion in Washington about expanding the PPP and providing more flexibility to employers who already received PPP loans including extending the forgiveness period beyond the current 8-weeks. The Partnership will continue to keep you updated.

Canadian Border Remains Closed

Canada has extended the shutdown of the U.S.-Canadian border until at least June 21. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the extended closure was necessary to protect public health on both sides of the border. Healthcare professionals and those involved in [essential trade and commerce](#) can cross.

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership is committed to providing employers with the latest information and resources to help you deal with COVID-19 and its impact on our community, state and nation. Visit our [Events](#) and [Resource](#) pages as they are updated regularly to provide you with the most current information.