

INCREMENTAL RE-OPENING ROADMAP

ORDINANCE FAQ

What is the Incremental Reopening Roadmap?

The reopening roadmap is an incremental, multi-phase approach to get Brookings businesses/organizations back open and operational while addressing public safety guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19. The reopening plan will take place in phases that will incrementally get things back to normal again while minimizing the risk of an outbreak that could potentially cause require the re-implementation of earlier restrictions.

Why is this being implemented?

Although COVID-19 is still active, the reality is that it will be part of our daily lives until a vaccine or treatment is found to be effective. To this point in time, Brookings has effectively kept COVID-19 numbers low. By taking precautions and calculated incremental reopening steps, we plan to get back to as normal as possible for residents and the local economy.

What are the phases and when will they be implemented?

Please note that each phase of the process will be addressed based on metrics, data, and the success of the current phase. The specific criteria will include testing, case numbers, spikes and hospitalization. As a community, we will only move to the next stage if the current phase shows a continued, positive result. If there is a significant change in positive cases, we may also move back to a prior phase. The timeline for how soon we will move forward is variable. It is wholly dependent upon the activity of the virus and the success of the community in keeping positive case numbers low.

Phase ONE – Stay-at-Home-Ordinance (currently tabled)

Phase TWO – Ordinance 20-005 (Limits public gathering businesses and organizations)

Phase THREE – Incremental Re-Opening Ordinance (Less restrictive regulation for public gathering businesses and organizations)

Phase FOUR – Further modified, less restrictive ordinance or full return to normal dependent on the number of positive cases, additional data metrics, healthcare advances, and best practices among other considerations

How does this affect me as a business/organization leader?

As a business/organization leader, you will be asked to adhere to a set of guidelines and safety processes and practices based on the nature of the services you provide. These guidelines will address the safety of the public and employees.

How does this affect me as a resident?

All of us in the community want life to return to normal as quickly as possible. However, we must proceed cautiously and with care and accept that normal may look a little bit different for us for the time being.

With the reopening of organizations, facilities, and businesses, community members must do their part to take diligent steps to prevent possible COVID-19 spread. Adherence to guidelines is what will ensure that we do not create a surge that will lead to regressing back to previous phases. Community members must follow CDC guidelines and practice social distancing, wear masks, and practice good hygiene practices. It is imperative that the public practice requests made by local officials and businesses to ensure safety and to limit spread.

As businesses incrementally open, individuals that are more vulnerable and at high risk should take extra precautions by limiting travel and exposure, practice social distancing, wear a mask and continue good hygiene measures.

What is different and what has changed as we move to the Re-Opening Ordinance?

This ordinance allows previously closed business under Ordinance 20-005 to return to in-person operations in a limited fashion to promote proper social distancing and good hygiene practices. These businesses include bars, restaurants, movie theaters, bowling alleys, salons, barbershops, spas, gyms, recreation facilities, etc.

What are the restrictions on bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, movie theaters, and other public gathering businesses under the Re-Opening Ordinance?

The restrictions on these businesses are as follows:

- Limit groups to ten (10) or less and space them six (6) feet apart
- Limit to 10 customers or 50% of the typical building occupancy capacity, which is greater.
- Encourage businesses to screen employees for symptoms at the beginning of every shift.
- Businesses are encouraged to post signage instructing customers to stay home if not feeling well.
- Employees will wear protective masks, clean or disinfect regularly, and stay home if sick.
- There will be no self-service buffets or salad bars, menus will be disposable or regularly sanitized, and condiments will be sanitized after each customer.
- High touch areas and seating will be cleaned between customers.
- Customer seating in theaters and similar businesses will mark certain seats as “not available due to social distancing guidelines” to ensure compliance.
- Businesses shall post publicly a regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule, specific to each business.
- Reduced occupancy capacity will be posted in a conspicuous location on the exterior of the business/organization.

What are the restrictions for grocery stores, casinos, gyms, and recreational facilities under the Re-Open Ordinance?

The restrictions on these businesses are as follows:

- Equipment is wiped down/disinfected before and after each use by customers and/or employees.

- Grocery stores will provide and clearly mark one-way shopping aisles.
- Grocery stores will install a plexiglass, or similar divider where physically possible between the cashier and customer.
- Grocery stores will provide hand sanitizer locations which are readily available for public use.
- Limit to 10 customers or 50% of the typical building occupancy capacity, which is greater.
- Businesses shall post publicly a regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule, specific to each business.
- Reduced occupancy capacity will be posted in a conspicuous location on the exterior of the business/organization.

What are the restrictions for salons, barbershops, spas, and other retail facilities under the Re-Opening Ordinance?

The restrictions on these businesses would be as follows:

- Provide for at least six (6) feet of spacing between customers.
- Encourage that services are offered by appointment only
- Facility must provide proper social distancing for waiting customers or ask them to wait in their vehicles.
- Retail stores will provide and clearly mark one-way shopping aisles.
- Retail stores will install a plexiglass, or similar divider where physically possible between the cashier and customer.
- Retail businesses will provide hand sanitizer locations which are readily available for public use.
- Employees wear masks and gloves as much as service offered permits.
- Equipment is cleaned before and after each customer.
- Businesses shall post publicly a regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule, specific to each business.
- Reduced occupancy capacity will be posted in a conspicuous location on the exterior of the business/organization.

This is a lot of information. Is there a quick-access handout?

Yes, there is a one-page handout which provides an overview of the Re-Opening Ordinance. The handout is available on the City website at www.cityofbrookings.org . You may view the full ordinance at <https://cityofbrookings.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>.

What if I have further questions about the Re-Opening Ordinance Or COVID-19 in general?

Please download our Engage Brookings mobile app, which is available for both Apple and Android devices. There is a service request for COVID-19 where you can ask questions of City staff or provide feedback for consideration.