



# TY OF BELFAST

131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine 04915

**Eric Sanders**  
Mayor

**E-mail:** [mayor@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:mayor@cityofbelfast.org)

**Erin Herbig**  
City Manager

**E-mail:** [citymanager@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:citymanager@cityofbelfast.org)  
**Tel:** (207) 338-3370 ext. 110  
**Fax:** (207) 338-2419

June 1, 2020

To City of Belfast residents, business owners and visitors,

The City of Belfast has continued to closely monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and with the guidance from the Maine CDC and Governor Janet Mills, we are now reopening our offices to the public effective June 1, 2020 per the Governor's mandate issued on April 28, 2020 (see below – Stage 2); thus the Belfast City Council, Mayor and City Manager have decided to take the following steps to provide an appropriate level of precaution for our staff and the community at large:

**Effective, June 1, 2020 City Facilities will reopen to the public.**

**We encourage the public to continue to utilize what services they can online, over the phone, or through postal mail.** All City phone and City email contact information is provided below, and all departments will continue to respond to phone calls and emails in a timely manner. If required, City Departments can make arrangements to make appointments.

We have installed plexiglass in areas where counter services occur and we request that if you are conducting business in any of our City Facilities that you wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

**Committee/Council Meetings**- Following the Council Meeting on March 17, 2020, the City has suspended all in person committee meetings through June 30, 2020. All City Council, Planning Board and City Committee Meetings will occur online using Zoom and can be streamed on the City website at [www.cityofbelfast.org](http://www.cityofbelfast.org). All regularly scheduled Council Meetings and Planning Board Meeting will air live on BEL TV. All Council Meetings will air as on Belfast Community Radio WBFY 100.9. Members of the public who wish to submit announcements, questions or comment for the City Council or Planning Board Meetings can email [public@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:public@cityofbelfast.org) or mail to City of Belfast, 131 Church Street, Belfast, ME 04915. We ask that you include your name and residence as comments will be included as part of the public record, and that all comments be sent prior to the date and time of the meeting, with a deadline of noon the day of the meeting.

As City government progresses through June, City Council, Planning Board, and Committee meetings will allow for public participation through Zoom. The City will still be accepting comments via email and postal mail. Public Comments will be included in the minutes of the City Council Meetings and City staff will read the comments during Planning Board Meetings.

The Zoom Webinar feature will allow for public input by allowing for virtual participation. There will be a website address that will serve as the link to the Zoom meeting and will be on Public Notices, Abutter Notices, and on the City website in advance of the meeting. There will also be a phone number next to the website address that will enable someone to participate, even if they are experiencing technical difficulties. There is no requirement to register for Webinars. The Chat function will be disabled.

The public will be allowed to speak at the meeting, but only during the public comment period. When it is time for the person to have their opportunity to speak, the host will accept them into the meeting. The public will only have access to audio. Video uses large amounts of bandwidth, and City Staff feels it is best to be proactive with these technical issues.

We have all heard of mishaps with virtual meetings. City staff believes the Zoom Webinar feature will enable public participation, but if there is a mishap, City staff reserve the right to eject any misbehaving or disruptive person.

**Transfer Station** – The Transfer Station asks that you please STOP your vehicle at the end of the building (by the office) and wait for instruction by a City Employee before exiting your vehicle to remove waste from your vehicle. **Beginning on June 2nd the Transfer Station will phase in recycling of residential cardboard, glass and tin cans. Beginning on June 16<sup>th</sup> the Transfer Station will phase in recycling of newspaper. Beginning on June 30<sup>th</sup> the Transfer Station will phase in recycling #2 plastic.** Mixed Paper and Mixed Plastic should continue to be included in household trash until further notice. Recycling of scale demolition and cardboard from Belfast businesses will continue to be accepted. The Transfer Station will continue to suspend all recycling from other municipalities, in an effort to reduce staff contact and possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus until further notice as City staff responds to the surge that our

facility is currently experiencing. We will continue to accept all trash from households and businesses. However, payment for trash will be reduced from \$3.50 to \$3.00, only cash will be accepted and should be placed in a designated payment receptacle. The requirement for stickers on trash bags will be suspended during this time. Residents with questions or concerns should call the Transfer Station at 338-1817.

**City Clerk & Tax Office** - Access to City Hall will be open beginning June 1, 2020. **The Clerk's Office hours will be Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm.** We will need to abide by the CDC recommendations for Social Distancing within our lobby, so signs will be posted for customers to abide by. Please be patient with our office and other customers as we transition back into open door business.

We request that citizens view the list of items below to determine what can be performed online at [cityofbelfast.org](http://cityofbelfast.org), or postal mail. City employees will continue to be available by phone (207-338-3370 ext. 114) and email to answer questions of any nature as well as to assist anyone with the process of performing transactions online with the City Clerk and/or Tax Collector:

- Vehicle re-registrations <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>
- Real Estate Tax payments <https://epayment.informe.org/payportonline/welcome>
- Sewer payments <https://epayment.informe.org/payportonline/welcome>
- ATV re-registrations [https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online\\_services.htm](https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online_services.htm)
- Boat re-registrations [https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online\\_services.htm](https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online_services.htm)
- Snowmobile re-registrations [https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online\\_services.htm](https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online_services.htm)
- Hunting Licenses [https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online\\_services.htm](https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online_services.htm)
- Fishing Licenses [https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online\\_services.htm](https://www5.informe.org/ifw/online_services.htm)
- Dog Licenses [https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog\\_license/index.pl](https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl)
- Marriage Licenses (Mail Only)
- Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates (*Mail Only*)

All transactions to be completed online, can be accessed through our website under “How do I Pay Taxes”.

**The items below are transactions that will require an in person transaction:**

- **New Vehicle Registrations**
- **Marriage Licenses**
- **New Resident Registrations**
- **Notary Services**
- **Any New ATV, Boat & Snowmobile Registrations**

*\*Please see below the emergency legislation, that does cover some registration issues.*

- *All registrations, including temporary registrations for vehicles, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles and trailers that expires during the period of state emergency is deemed extended until 30 days after the state of emergency is terminated. (The important notice here is “expires during”). Registrations that expired before the state of emergency was declared would not qualify for the extension the way it’s worded (i.e. all boats which expired in December). “Temporary*

*registrations” should cover Maine dealer sales but private sales and out of State dealer sales will not have a way to complete the registration process.*

- The extension does not change the registration interval. All fees that would have been due are still due within 30 days of the termination of the state of emergency.*
- The online renewal systems (Rapid Renewal and MOSES) are to be turned on for all municipalities even if they current do not participate and will stay on until 30 days after the state of emergency is terminated.*

All interest accrued from March 18<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> on sewer or tax payments will be deferred without penalty.

**Belfast Free Library** – On June 1, the Belfast Free Library will open to the public. Services and hours have been adjusted in the interest of best service and of safety for public and staff.

The Library’s hours in this stage of reopening will be:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday: Noon to 5:30 p.m.

The number of patrons in the library will be limited to ten people on the adult (first) floor and ten people in the children’s (second) floor. Reference, research, and technology assistance will be available by appointment on the third floor. Time spent in the Library will be limited to 30 minutes. In this stage of reopening, public computers and seating and the meeting rooms will not be available. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Effective immediately, the book return slots at the front entrance are open and available for the return of library material. When returning material, please use the book return slots at the front entrance. Any checked out items are not due until July 10<sup>th</sup>. No overdue fines will accrue during this time period.

The Library will continue to offer curbside pickup during the same hours as the Library’s open hours. You can utilize the online library catalog – Minerva- for placing of hold for pick-up items owned by the Library. We will not be able to get material held by other libraries until statewide service is running. Please call 207-338-3884 ext.10 for more information or to assist with curbside pickup.

**Public Safety** – Access to the Police Department and Fire/Ambulance Department lobbies will be open to the public. If you have an emergency, please call 911.

**General Assistance** – Anyone needing General Assistance should contact the administrator at 338-3370 ext. 120. Applications will be processed over the phone, email, postal mail and appointment if required. 338-3370 ext. 120 will also connect elderly residents of Belfast who are

homebound and need access to supplies, such as food or prescriptions through the Ring of Caring program.

**Parks and Recreation** – Please contact 338-3370 ext. 127 if you need forms or assistance. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. You may also download forms or applications from the City website. At this time our City parks and trails will remain open to the public but we would like to stress the importance of following the CDC guidelines for COVID-19 even in the parks, playgrounds, Skate Park, Dog Park and trails.

**Harbor** – Please contact 338-1142 if you need forms or assistance. The City Landing docks are in with power and water. Please be aware of the following changes as the Harbor becomes more active by boater and general public use:

- Rental moorings are available for use.
- Fuel is available – both non-ethanol gas and dyed diesel.
- The Harbor Public restrooms are open however the showers are not open at this time. The showers may be opened later if necessary on an appointment basis. Heads and showers on the vessel should be used if possible.
- All vessels should contact the Harbor Office before coming to the City Landing or picking up rental moorings.
- All boaters and the general public should practice social distancing while on the docks or launch ramp and are asked to not gather in groups.
- The gangways used to access or leave the docks should be used by one person at a time if going in different directions.
- Frequent washing is recommended when handling vessel lines or fueling.

**Planning & Code Office** – Due to limited amount of space the Code and Planning Department is requesting that only 1 person will be permitted at the counter in the front office at any point in time. We respectfully request that all other persons must wait in the hallway.

Beginning June 1, the Department will accept building permit applications for interior improvements and renovations. All other protocols for inspections are intended to remain in place. Anyone who is seeking services that may warrant a significant amount of time (15+ minutes), should call or email ahead to arrange for an appointment with City staff. All other questions for the Planning and Code Office can be directed to 338-3370 ext. 125.

**Assessing Office** – Starting June 1st we will be open to walk-in business, due to social distancing requirements and our narrow hallways, we would appreciate if you would call with any inquiries, first, and then set-up an appointment for us to accommodate our meeting. This process will likely carry through until the Fall.

As usual, we will continue to accept all Personal Property, Property Exemption, Current Use Land Classification, Street Addressing or Apartment Addressing requests, and other inquiries by phone, email or mail that same as if in person through this time period. Personal property filings

are nearing past-due status so please contact us with questions. Since the deadline for all filings is approaching, please call us at (207) 338-3370 x177 or email us at [assessing@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:assessing@cityofbelfast.org) with any questions regarding submission deadlines. Safety is our foremost concern and we will assist you in any way we can. Please allow for 24 hours as everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant** – The plant continues to operate, however there will be no public access until further notice. Residents that have questions or concerns can call the Plant at 338-1744 during normal business hours, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. To report an emergency, such as sewer line problems, pump station alarms, or other emergency issues please call 338-2040.

In an effort to reduce potential staff contact with raw wastewater and possible exposure to the Covid-19 virus the City is asking that all sewer users continue to refrain from flushing products, other than toilet paper, down the toilet. Disposing of other products can lead to sewer line blockages and plugged pumps that require direct contact by staff to resolve the issue.

Additional trash receptacles have been placed back out in several locations throughout the City. In an effort to limit the amount of unintended trash and possible staff exposure to the Covid-19 virus we ask that all residents please utilize the Transfer Station or contracted services for household trash disposal.

**Public Works** –Residents in need of assistance or to express concerns please call the Public Works Facility at 338-2375 and leave a message. Your call will be returned in a timely manner.

**City Manager's Office** – Please contact 338-3370 ext. 110. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. If required, appointments can be made.

**Treasurer's Office** – Please contact 338-3370 ext. 111. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. If required, appointments can be made.

**Economic Development** – Please contact 338-3370 ext. 116 if you need forms or assistance. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. If required, appointments can be made.

**BEL TV** – Please contact 323-2430. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. If required, appointments can be made.

**Belfast Municipal Airport** – Physical access to the airport property and terminal building by the general public is governed by 17-A M.R.S.A. Section 402. Airport tenants, charter and medical transport passengers, aircrews and medical personnel have full access to the airport and terminal with the caveat the terminal is only staffed part time and may not be sanitized following every visit. Please call 207-338-3370 x 600 or 603-970-1947 if you need assistance.

**Cemetery** – Please contact 338-2264. Everything will be processed over the phone, email or postal mail. If required, appointments can be made.

**The following is a list of City of Belfast departments and how they can be reached during this time:**

<a href="mailto:citymanager@cityofbelfast.org">citymanager@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 110	Erin Herbig
<a href="mailto:managersasst@cityofbelfast.org">managersasst@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 110	Manda Cushman
<a href="mailto:managersoffice@cityofbelfast.org">managersoffice@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 119	Nora McGrath
<a href="mailto:generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org">generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 120	Jodie Stout
<a href="mailto:maintenance@cityofbelfast.org">maintenance@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 113	Norman Gilmore
<a href="mailto:treasurer@cityofbelfast.org">treasurer@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 111	Theresa Butler
<a href="mailto:cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org">cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 114	Amy Flood
<a href="mailto:assessor@cityofbelfast.org">assessor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 122	Brent Martin
<a href="mailto:wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org">wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 135	Wayne Marshall
<a href="mailto:jboynton@cityofbelfast.org">jboynton@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 118	Jonathan Boynton
<a href="mailto:ceo@cityofbelfast.org">ceo@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 133	Bub Fournier
<a href="mailto:parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org">parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 127	Norm Poirier
<a href="mailto:economicdevelopment@cityofbelfast.org">economicdevelopment@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 116	Thomas Kittredge
<u>City Attorney</u>	338 3370 x 146	Bill Kelly
<a href="mailto:harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org">harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 1142 x 700	Kathy Pickering
<a href="mailto:publicworks@cityofbelfast.org">publicworks@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 2375 x 300	Bob Richards
<a href="mailto:firechief@cityofbelfast.org">firechief@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3362 x 200	Chief Jim Richards
<a href="mailto:ambulance@cityofbelfast.org">ambulance@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3362 x 202	Debbie Heath
<a href="mailto:wwtp@cityofbelfast.org">wwtp@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 1744 x 900	Jon Carman
<a href="mailto:transferstation@cityofbelfast.org">transferstation@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 1817 x 400 desk	Mike McFadden
<a href="mailto:snorman@belfastlibrary.org">snorman@belfastlibrary.org</a>	338 3884 x 500	Steve Norman
<a href="mailto:cemetery@cityofbelfast.org">cemetery@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 2264 x 800	Steve Bogue

<u>Police Dispatch</u>	338 2420	Chief Gerry Lincoln
<a href="mailto:beltv@cityofbelfast.org">beltv@cityofbelfast.org</a>	323 2430 x 136	Ned Lightner
<a href="mailto:airport2@cityofbelfast.org">airport2@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338 3370 x 600	Kenn Ortmann

**Belfast Mayor and Council**

<a href="mailto:mayor@cityofbelfast.org">mayor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-322-6806	Mayor Eric Sanders
<a href="mailto:ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-323-1748	Councilor Mary Mortier
<a href="mailto:ward2councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward2councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-323-8083	Councilor Neal Harkness
<a href="mailto:ward3councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward3councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-505-0116	Councilor Brenda Bonneville
<a href="mailto:ward4councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward4councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-323-0881	Councilor Mike Hurley
<a href="mailto:ward5councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward5councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	207-338-1920	Councilor Paul Dean

**Governor Mills Presents Safe, Gradual Plan to Restart Maine’s Economy**

*Governor will extend stay-at-home order with modifications to allow for activities and business operations deemed safe*

**Augusta, MAINE** – Governor Janet Mills today presented her Administration’s plan to gradually and safely restart Maine’s economy. The plan, which comes as the State appears to be successfully flattening the curve, establishes four gradual stages of reopening, the first of which begins May 1st. The stages focus not on essential v. non-essential designations like those used to originally limit business operations and activities, but on the ability of a business to operate or an activity to occur in a manner that protects public health and safety. As the Administration gradually eases restrictions on some businesses and activities, it also implements protective protocols, along with broader additional health and safety measures, to protect Maine people.

To that end, the Governor also announced today she will extend the State’s stay-at-home order in the form of a new “Stay Safer at Home” Executive Order. The new Order, which she will issue by Thursday, will continue to have Maine people stay at home with limited exceptions for already permitted activities, such as grocery shopping or exercising. However, the new Stay Safer at Home Order will also allow Maine people to visit businesses or participate in activities that are deemed safe to open under Stage 1 of

the reopening plan. The Order will extend through May 31, 2020 but is subject to change.

*“I am proud of the work Maine people have done to mitigate the spread of the virus and to flatten the curve, but our work is far from over,”* **said Governor Janet Mills.** *“While this plan presents a path forward for gradually and safely restarting our economy, it should not lure Maine people into thinking that this pandemic is almost over or that things will be back to normal soon. The hard truth is that they are not; that they likely will not be for a long time; and that, with this plan, we are inventing a new normal – a different way of doing business, shopping, traveling, and enjoying the Maine outdoors in ways that keep us all safe.”*

*“This plan offers a measured approach to restarting the economy that prioritizes what is most important: the health and safety of Maine people,”* **said Heather Johnson Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.** *“There is no doubt these have been challenging times, but the Department will work closely and collaboratively with our private sector partners to ensure that we are able to reopen businesses in a manner that protects public health.”*

*“The Maine State Chamber of Commerce appreciates the Governor’s thoughtful leadership throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic,”* **said Dana Connors, President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.** *“Our first concern, as always, is protecting the health of Maine people, and we support the Governor’s gradual approach to reopening the economy and her Administration’s commitment to working closely and collaboratively across economic sectors to determine how to do so safely. Maine businesses are eager to do their part to stem the tide on this virus, and we look forward to our continued partnership to that end.”*

*“Maine hospitals appreciate the balanced approach the Governor and her team are taking on restoring a broader array of healthcare services available to the public,”* **said Steven Michaud, President of the Maine Hospital Association.** *“There are many variables at play in re-starting these services. We look forward to continuing to work with the administration on meeting the healthcare needs of the public in a safe and responsible way. We also appreciate the patience Maine people have shown and will continue to show their healthcare providers as we move toward restarting some services.”*

*“The Maine Medical Association wants to thank Governor Mills for her science-based public health focus during this unprecedented time,”* **said Dan Morin, Director of Communications & Government Affairs for the Maine Medical Association.** *“Her trust in front-line physicians is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with her office to keep all Mainers healthy.”*

The Governor’s plan establishes four stages, focused first on resuming those business operations and activities which can be conducted in a safe manner. This means that they

involve a low risk for potential transmission of the virus. The earlier stages permit small businesses to reopen, but only with additional safety precautions.

Progression through the stages will occur month-by-month, depending on the success of previous stages. For example, Stage 1 will begin on May 1, if there are no new trends that change the plan. Stage 2 will begin in June, and Stage 3 will begin in July and continue through August. Stage 4, which lifts the most restrictions, will start at a point to be determined in the future. A month-by-month breakdown of the stages allows for sufficient time to assess the effectiveness of the health and safety precautions adopted and evaluate the potential need to adjust course.

However, the month-by-month plan should not be considered a hard and fast timeline. Throughout the process, the Maine CDC will monitor and report to the Governor epidemiological data, such as case trends and hospitalization rates, as well as health care readiness and capacity, to inform decisions on the appropriateness of proceeding through stages and lifting restrictions. If Maine CDC detects a resurgence of the virus, the State will move quickly to halt progression through the stages and reimplement restrictions to protect public health and safety. As the Governor outlined in her vision for restarting the economy, public health considerations will be the foremost guiding factor in the reopening process.

*“The health and safety of Maine people will guide each phase of this process,” said Dr. Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. “We’ll continue to work closely with our colleagues at DECD on an approach that balances the health of Maine’s people with the health of our economy.”*

The Maine CDC will be tracking three primary metrics in its evaluation of whether or not to progress through the stages: 1) a downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-like syndromic cases; 2) a downward trajectory of documented cases and newly hospitalized patients; and 3) the capacity of Maine’s hospital systems to treat all patients without crisis care and the ability of the state to engage in a robust testing program. The Administration will also continue to evaluate standards outlined in the Governor’s vision statement, such as testing capacity and contact tracing, to inform decisions about proceeding.

### **The Plan to Restart Maine’s Economy**

The staged plan builds on the Governor’s current Executive Orders, which already allows grocery stores, pharmacies, financial institutions, home repair services, child care agencies, and car repair services, [among others](#) to operate, and then allows for the safe reopening of those businesses not currently operating. The upcoming four stages as contemplated by the Governor’s plan are:

**Stage 1 (May):** Beginning May 1st, Stage 1 continues the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people, the quarantine of all people entering or returning to Maine for a

period of 14 days, and the special precautions for older Mainers and others at risk of COVID-19. It calls for people who are able to work from home to continue to do so, including State employees. It will also newly require that Maine people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and continue strict requirements for long-term care facilities. Guidance on cloth face coverings will be issued in the coming days. Stage 1 also allows for the limited expansion of certain business, religious, and quality of life activities, with appropriate safety precautions. These include:

- Health care from Maine-licensed providers, with recommendations that they prioritize care for patients with time-sensitive conditions; assure the safety of patients, staff, and communities; manage the use of essential resources such as personal protective equipment and testing supplies; and pace re-opening services to the level of community COVID-19 activity, maintaining capacity in our hospitals for potential outbreaks
- Personal services: Barber shops, hair salons, and pet grooming
- Limited drive-in, stay-in-your-vehicle religious services
- Drive-in movie theaters
- Outdoor recreation: guided outdoor activities (hunting & fishing) and restricted use of golf and disc golf courses
- State parks, state-owned public land trails, and historic sites; although certain coastal state parks will remain closed
- Auto dealerships and car washes

**Stage 2 (June):** Tentatively beginning June 1st, Stage 2 contemplates revising the limitation on gatherings from less than 10 people to less than 50 people. It also calls for people who can work from home to continue to do so but allows for employees in certain fields to begin to reenter the office as needed, including State employees. It maintains the 14 day quarantine for all people entering or returning to Maine and the special precautions for older Mainers and others at risk of COVID-19. With appropriate safety precautions, Stage 2 would allow for some degree of opening with reservations, capacity limits, and other measures for:

- Restaurants
- Fitness and exercise centers and nail technicians
- Retail stores for broader in-store shopping
- Lodging and campgrounds for Maine residents and those who have met the 14 day quarantine requirement
- Day camps for Maine children and those who have met the 14 day quarantine requirement
- Coastal State parks

**Stage 3 (July & August):** Tentatively beginning July 1st, Stage 3 contemplates maintaining the prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people and other Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions, including the 14-day quarantine on people entering Maine. With appropriate safety precautions, Stage 3 would allow for some degree of opening for:

- Lodging, such as hotels, campgrounds, summer camps, or RV parks for Maine residents and visitors. The Administration is developing guidelines to assist them in safely reopening, and reservations should not be taken until those guidelines are issued.
- Outdoor recreation such as charter boats and boat excursions
- Bars
- Personal services such as spas, tattoo and piercing parlors, and massage facilities, among others

**Stage 4 (Timeline Undetermined):** Stage 4 contemplates lifting restrictions and allowing all businesses and activities to resume with appropriate safety precautions.

The stages outlined above are advanced as a framework for planning. Innovations or expanded testing and other capacity could accelerate this pace, as could a determination that certain parts of Maine, such as some rural areas, may be able to ease restrictions safely. At the same time, a surge in COVID-19 in parts or all of Maine could result in significant adjustments to this plan and a return to more restrictions.

The Mills Administration does not currently anticipate that it will be safe to accept cruise or commercial passenger ships with more than 50 people this summer. The Administration will review this assessment in September 2020. This prohibition excludes passenger ferries working between Maine ports. Additionally, the Administration is currently working with stakeholders to develop plans for a safe return to school in the fall.

**Establishing Safety Precautions:** In order to reopen, various sectors of Maine's economy will be required to work with the Department of Economic and Community Development to implement practical, reasonable, evidence-informed safety protocols and modifications that protect the health and safety of employees and customers. These accommodations may be as simple as closing break rooms, providing flexible working hours, employee training, and installing plexiglass shields, or as complex as adjusting a business' sales process and reducing occupancy to ensure employee and customer safety.

This collaboration between DECD and the private sector will result in what will be known as a COVID-19 Prevention Checklists. These checklists will identify best practices for the business specific to its operations as well as general best practices related to physical distancing, hygiene, personal protection, and maintenance of clean workplaces, among others. The checklists, which will differ sector to sector, will undergo a rigorous review process including from government officials, health experts, and industry representatives. Once completed, businesses that commit to complying with the requirements on the checklist will be provided a badge to post on their business door or website, their names will also be posted on the DECD website and they will be allowed to open. Health providers in Maine will follow U.S. CDC and professional association guidelines.

Last week, Governor [outlined her vision for a gradual and safe reopening of Maine's economy](#) amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, emphasizing four principles that will guide the State's decision-making process, including protecting public health, maintaining health care readiness, building reliable and accessible testing, and prioritizing public-private collaboration. The Governor also invited Maine people to offer their ideas through a portal launched by DECD. To date, more than 1,600 submissions have been received.