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TAUNTON WILL BE READY FOR REOPENING

Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell announced that Taunton will be ready for the phased reopening of the Commonwealth.

"I know that this pandemic has been a terrible burden on families with the loss of life and loss of income. To help, we have been working around the clock at city hall to help area businesses with a safe reopening. Our goal is to keep people healthy while getting them back to work," said O'Connell. "Now that Gov. Baker has released the details of the plan, we will be working to implement them as quickly and safely as possible."

Governor Charlie Baker formally announced his reopening plan today. Manufacturing, construction, and places of worship are the first to be able to open, but there will be restrictions to prevent the further spread of Covid-19. There are new requirements for essential businesses already operating. On May 25, laboratories, offices, car washes, hair salons, pet grooming and some outdoor recreational facilities can re-open. Healthcare providers can provide high-priority preventative care. Salons and pet grooming will be by appointment only and most city buildings will remain by appointment only at this point. The continuation of remote work is strongly encouraged. Emergency childcare facilities that have been operating may be used to meet the needs of people with no alternative for care.

The stay at home advisory is now a "[safer at home advisory](#)." Safety precautions such as wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing, limited outings, and no gatherings over 10 people are still in place. People are encouraged to stay home unless they need to make an essential trip to a newly opened facility.

"I am urging my fellow Tauntonians to use social distancing, wash their hands and wear their masks to stop the spread so the state will continue with the next phase of reopening. Also, I am encouraging everyone to help our businesses get back on their feet by shopping locally. They need our support to

survive and to help rehire area residents. Let's help our neighbors by shopping locally as much as possible," said O'Connell.

Phase one will last for at least three weeks. Links to information released by the state regarding the phased reopening plan have been posted on the City of Taunton website. Residents can also call the COVID-19 hotline at 774.406.5898 with questions.

O'Connell is working with the Board of Health on implementing the new restrictions. Her office is available to help any business with questions. "We want to be a resource for businesses as they work to reopen, not a heavy-handed enforcer. Together we can keep Taunton safe, healthy, and thriving once again," said O'Connell. ###