

For Release Monday, 6/22/2020

County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Release

Berks County Prepares to Go Green – But What's After Green?

Reading, PA— 6/22/2020 — This past Friday Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced that Berks County will move to the green phase this Friday, June 26, 2020. This is a critical step for businesses in Berks that were not able to open under the other phases; however, green is not true green. Berks is not fully open and what the next phase will entail and when it may happen is still a major question mark. It is equally clear that the COVID-19 health crisis is not over.

Two key warnings for Berks County Businesses and Residents

There are two clear messages for Berks County businesses and residents. First, the COVID-19 health crisis is not over. There are currently no vaccine and no effective treatment. Additionally, we are seeing spikes of new cases in cities and states that have already reopened in other parts of the US. This means we need to continue to follow health and safety protocols. Detailed resources are available for both businesses and individuals at www.DoYourPartBerks.com. The Berks County Commissioners are asking each of you to continue to do your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 here in Berks County.

The second message is that green does not mean the county is fully open. To understand the state imposed limitations in place under green please visit the Governor's website at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/> The Governor has acknowledged that green is not fully open and that something will come after green, but he has not indicated what that will look like nor when that may begin to take place. Despite legislative action to end the Governor's emergency order Pennsylvanians are still under that order until

the PA Supreme Courts rules. The case is set to be heard on June 29th. Even if the legislature wins their case it is not clear exactly what will change. We urge you to continue to follow this developing story.

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