

D.C. Announces Plans to Begin to Re-Open Starting May 29: What Does that Mean for Your Business?

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On May 21, 2020, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that D.C. will likely begin re-opening by moving into Phase One effective Friday May 29, 2020. A final decision is expected to be announced to be announced on Tuesday May 26, 2020.

D.C. also published an eighty-page document outlining the plan for re-opening the city in four phases. According to the current plan, full re-opening (Phase Four) will not occur until a vaccine is developed or cure is discovered. The report provides many details regarding the recommendations for some industries, such as small retail businesses, restaurants, salons, bars and other businesses to open in limited capacity during Phases One through Three. With respect generally to “Office Spaces,” the eighty-page plan states remote working is recommended during Phase One. At Phase Two “Office Spaces” could reopen at 25% capacity, and at Phase Three “Office Spaces” could increase to 50% capacity. How this applies to some businesses, including those considered essential, is unclear.

Any employer who is considering re-opening during Phase One, Two or Three is strongly encouraged to consult with counsel.

Links to D.C.’s eighty-page outline of the plan for reopening, as well as a summary prepared by DCist, can be found here:

DC’s 80 Page Outline: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/reopencdc>

DCist Summary: <https://dcist.com/story/20/05/21/dc-reopen-stage-1-recs-muriel-bowser/>