

To our WNY Economic Development Partners:

In his press conference on Monday, Governor Cuomo announced **NY Forward**, a phased-in approach to reopening New York. The State's plan focuses on getting New Yorkers back to work—without triggering renewed spread of the COVID-19 virus or overwhelming local hospital systems. The NY Forward [website](#) provides comprehensive information and helpful resources outlining the regionally and industry-based reopening process.

While the WNY region has not yet been cleared for re-opening, our businesses should begin to consult the [resources](#) on the site and use them to prepare for reopening. The following resources are now available for Phase 1 businesses:

- Industry specific reopening guidelines for employers and employees;
- A document which employers must read and affirm, acknowledging they reviewed the detailed guidelines; and
- A printable [business safety plan template](#) that businesses should use to develop their safety plan for reopening. *Note: Businesses will not be required to submit these for approval, but these plans must be retained on the premises of the business and must be made available to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) or local health or safety authorities in the event of an inspection.*

In addition, businesses that are operating now as essential businesses will need to read and affirm their guidance and print/utilize the safety plan template.

Over the coming days both the NY Forward and [ESD](#) websites will continue to be updated with additional information as it becomes available. We encourage you to check back regularly for further guidance and details.