

# PHASE 4: IMPROVING

## What does it look like



This phase occurs when the number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high. When in the Improving phase, most new outbreaks are quickly identified, traced, and contained due to robust testing infrastructure and rapid contact tracing. Health system capacity can typically handle these new outbreaks, and therefore case fatality rate does not rise above typical levels. Though a community might be in a declining phase, the overall number of infected individuals still indicate the need for distancing to stop transmission and move to the next phase.

## What work can we do

## What do we need to do to stay safe

### Businesses and organizations

Most business and organizations will be open throughout this phase under strict safety measures. These include:

- **Retail:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines (e.g., limited capacity)
- **Public Transportation:** Permitted
- **Restaurants & Bars:** Available for take-out, delivery and drive-through only
- **Manufacturing:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Construction:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines
- **Food & Agriculture:** Permitted
- **Offices:** Open (remote work still required where feasible)
- **Education:** Remote learning in K-12 and higher education, summer programs in small groups
- **Outdoor work:** Permitted with additional safety measures and guidelines

### Personal and social

- **Social Distancing:** In place, maintain a six-foot distance from other when outdoors / in public
- **Face coverings:** Required
- **Gatherings:** Limited to small groups with social distancing
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Walking, hiking, biking, golfing, boating permitted. Activities permitted in small groups with social distancing
- **Quarantine/Isolation:** Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must isolate, and any individual with a known exposure must quarantine, according to CDC and public health guidance
- **At-risk populations:** All at-risk individuals should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents. Businesses should strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of an at-risk population

