

On Monday, Gov. Whitmer signed an executive order to begin a limited reopening of the Upper Peninsula and the Traverse City region **beginning Friday, May 22.**

By moving to the next phase of the MI Safe Start Plan, retail businesses, some offices, and restaurants and bars with limited seating may begin reopening as long as they adopt proper safety measures, practices and training, including:

- » Implementing workplace infection-control practices;
- » Training employees to properly use personal protective equipment (PPE);
- » Informing workers on the steps they must take to notify their employers of any symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; and
- » Teaching workers how to report unsafe workplace conditions.

Restaurants and bars in these regions are required to limit their capacity to 50 percent of their normal seating to keep groups at least 6 feet from one another. Servers must wear masks and all other employees must follow rigorous disinfection protocols. Patrons are required to wear masks until they are seated at their table.

Retail stores are required to limit their capacity to 25 percent and follow strict social distancing guidelines. Customers are still required to wear masks.

Small social gatherings of fewer than 10 people are also allowed in these regions, but residents are encouraged to continue taking precautions to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19.

This executive order still allows for cities, villages, townships and other local entities to choose to take a more cautious course of re-engagement if they wish. For more information on the MI Safe Start Plan, click **here**.

