



## Reopening: Public Health Assessment

As of April 2020, Federal, state, and local governments are all issuing guidelines that specifically address reopening. For theaters considering amplifying guidelines provided by their local government, recent studies, including “Roadmap to Resilience” and “When Can We Go Out?” (Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University), provide helpful guidance about how to navigate public health data in reopening decisions.

Questions to consider:

- **What is your state’s testing capacity?**<sup>1</sup>  
“Roadmap to Resilience” identifies sufficient testing as essential to safely reopening and projects the need to be able to test 2-6% of the population daily. Are tests currently widely available in your state? Can people with and without symptoms get tested?
- **How long has widespread testing been available?**  
The White House currently identifies “Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period,” as criteria for reopening. Has widespread testing been available for 14 days or longer?
- **Are new cases increasing in your county and region?**  
[The New York Times](#) is currently tracking across the United States, you can use their resources to determine the percentage of cases within the overall population and if new cases are increasing.
- **Has your city or county implemented contact tracing?**  
Contact tracing is a system that traces the contacts of an infected person. The White House currently identifies contact tracing has a core state preparedness responsibility.

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<sup>1</sup> *Roadmap to Resilience* projects that each state will need a testing capacity of 2-6% of the population per day, for testing, tracing, and warning programs to be effective.