

Western New York expected to enter phase 3 on Tuesday

Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "It's clear right now that, as of next week ... as early as Tuesday, we should be getting that green light to enter phase three reopening of businesses, which we all want to see."

Wydysh is part of the Western New York "control room," which is overseeing this region's reopening as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "New York Forward" plan.

Speaking on LCTV, Wydysh said, "Phase three should include things like restaurants and food service opening up more, and more of the personal care options that you're looking forward to. Of course, we're going to be focused on the reopening of restaurants in the area. We know this is a big one for indoor dining. Outdoor dining has been going well. We've seen those restaurants expand their outdoor dining significantly here just in the last week, and now they're looking forward to indoor dining, as well. Seating in those facilities will be limited, of course, to 50% of capacity to start."

"We also know that more personal care options are going to be opening up - things like nail salons, massage therapy, tattoos and piercing - all of those other services that, of course, we've been missing throughout this time."

Phase 3 - Restaurants

The "New York Forward" website noted patrons will once again be allowed to eat inside brick-and-mortar establishments.

The "New York Forward" site stated, "These guidelines apply to all restaurants and food services establishments, including food trucks and other food concessions. In regions that are in Phase 1, or have not yet reached Phase 2, such establishments may only operate by take-out and delivery. In regions that have reached Phase 2, such establishments may open

outdoor spaces with seating for customers, in accordance with 'Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor and Take-Out/Delivery Food Services.' In regions that have reached Phase 3, such establishments may open indoor spaces with seating for customers, in accordance with the guidelines below/in 'Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Food Services.' 'Outdoor space' is defined as open-air space designated for the consumption of food/beverage, which may have a temporary or fixed cover (e.g. awning or roof), so long as such cover has at least two open sides for airflow."

Moreover, restaurants in phase three must do the following:

√ Limit indoor capacity to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy, exclusive of employees.

√ Limit outdoor capacity to the number of tables that can be safely and appropriately arranged, such that each table is a minimum of 6 feet away from another.

√ All indoor and outdoor tables with seating for customers must be separated by a minimum of 6 feet in all directions. Whenever distancing is not feasible between tables, physical barriers must be enacted between such tables. Barriers must be at least 5 feet in height and not block emergency and/or fire exits.

√ Regardless of physical distance, employees must wear an acceptable face covering at all times.

√ Patrons must wear face coverings at all times, except while seated; provided that the patron is over the age of 2 and able to medically tolerate such covering.

√ Individuals seated at the same table must be members of the same party (but may be from different households), with a maximum of 10 people per table. Seating in bar areas and communal tables are only



Restaurants can welcome patrons back inside once phase three begins.

permitted if at least 6 feet can be maintained between parties.

√ Clearly signal 6 feet spacing in any lines for customers waiting to order, pick-up food, be seated, or use the restroom, as well as in any pick-up or payment location.

Find additional guidelines on the "New York Forward" website.

Phase 3 - Personal Care


Phase three also includes personal care. Per "New York Forward," this stage includes: "non-hair-related personal care businesses and services, including tattoo and piercing facilities, appearance enhancement practitioners, massage therapy, spas, cosmetology, nail specialty, UV and non-UV tanning, or waxing. This guidance


does not apply to any hair-related personal care services (e.g. haircutting, coloring, or styling), which are addressed in 'Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Hair Salons and Barbershops.'"

Mandatory protocols include:
√ Customers must only be permitted entry into the facility if they wear an acceptable face covering, provided that the customer is over the age of 2 and able to medically tolerate such a covering.

√ Employees shall be tested for COVID-19 through a diagnostic test every 14 days, so long as the region in which the personal care workplace is located remains in phase three of the state's reopening.

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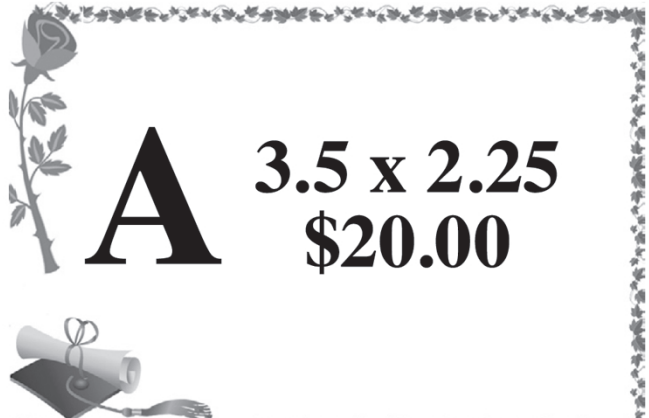
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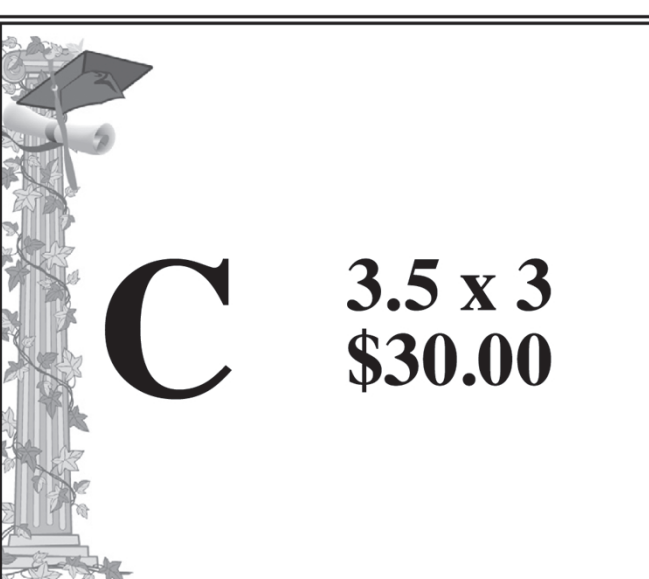
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