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RELATIONS

AIA - Week 18

We are beginning to see many changes as the state of Georgia begins to open up. Traffic is increasing as more businesses and governments are planning to safely reopen. We hope you find this report informative as you navigate these unprecedented times.

Executive Presentations

Governor Kemp held a press conference on Tuesday, May 12th. The Governor issued two new executive orders and clarified other directives. Governor Kemp is easing restrictions on restaurants and childcare facilities allowing them to inch closer to normalcy. Restaurants can now allow ten diners per square foot of public space. This is an increase from a maximum of six. The new order expands the number of people allowed in a classroom at a childcare facility from ten to twenty while also adhering to the staff-to-children ratio set by the Department of Early Care and Learning. These facilities must continue to abide by the thirteen criteria set by the state including employee health screening and frequent sanitation. This is an effort to allow people to return to work and ease the burden of finding childcare.

With the summer months approaching as what many call “camp season” the Governor addressed where the State stands on allowing camps to move forward. He said that day camps can resume on May 14th. There are 32 mandatory criteria that camps must meet in order to resume. These criteria include things such as signage, limited numbers, providing sanitation supplies, health screenings and more.

Governor Kemp expressed that the numbers in Georgia are looking good and he is pleased with the trends he is seeing. Bars, nightclubs, live performance venues and amusement parks will remain closed through May 31st.

Kemp addressed reopening the State Capitol. He said that the number of people allowed in the building will be limited, there will be limits on size of meetings, strict social distancing guidelines, health screenings and other guidelines to be announced.

The Governor also addressed the suspension of the road test for new drivers getting their licenses. Kemp clarified that any driver who received a license without the road test will be required to take the test to maintain their license. A process to take that test will be provided to drivers by September 30th.

Executive Orders

Here are links that will take you to the previously mentioned executive orders. The first one deals with guidelines and additional guidelines for reopening camps, parks, pools, restaurants and others. The second is clarification regarding driving tests.

May 12th Reopening Guidelines:

On Tuesday May 12th, Governor Kemp signed a new executive order outlining rules and guidelines for restaurants, childcare facilities, and other businesses for reopening. While restaurants, barbershops, and spas are beginning to open their doors again, Governor Kemp has ordered for bars, nightclubs, and live performance venues to remain closed until May 31st. In regards to restaurants, Governor Kemp's executive order reads: that he is "Empowering restaurants to expand operations safely if they so choose." The reopening guidelines for restaurants now allow for 10 patrons per 300 square feet of public space, and increased the party size per table from six to 10 people. The executive order also allows for an increase in the number of people allowed in a classroom from 10 to 20 people as long as the staff-to-children ratio set by the Department of Early Care and Learning is maintained. The child care facilities must continue to adhere to 13 minimum, mandatory criteria to continue to operate, including "strict screening procedures and sanitation mandates for frequently touched items and surfaces." Governor Kemp is also allowing for the reopening of summer camps excluding overnight camps. For more details, see the executive order at <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

Driver License Clarification:

The governor clarified the requirements for teen drivers during the pandemic. All teen drivers who received their license without taking a road test will have to go back and pass the road test in order to keep their license. For more information on this executive order, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

Resuming the Legislative Session

Legislators are ready to get back to work. The House Committee on Reopening presented their recommendations on May 12th. Click here for their full recommendations:

[http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/Information/COVID-19/Finalized Memo for Committee Approval.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/Information/COVID-19/Finalized_Memo_for_Committee_Approval.pdf)

In summary, the recommendations further call for social distancing measures, increased signage, strict sanitation requirements of the building and private spaces, encouraging face covering, temperature screenings upon entrance, limit on group size and gathering locations and others.

We are still anticipating a June 11th return however on Wednesday of this week, Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan suggested that June 15th would be preferred.

Addressing Medical Liability

Since the beginning of this pandemic, Doctors across the state have been increasingly concerned about legal liability issues. The lengthy executive order signed by Governor Kemp on May 12th included this protection for all physicians and allied health care professionals in the state. The order designates “individuals who are licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under Title 43, Chapters 26 and 34 to provide health care services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession or in an approved education or training program, whose practices are affected by the Public Health Emergency” as auxiliary emergency management workers. This order is in addition to workers at healthcare facilities who were covered under a previous order.

Fourth Federal Aid Package proposed

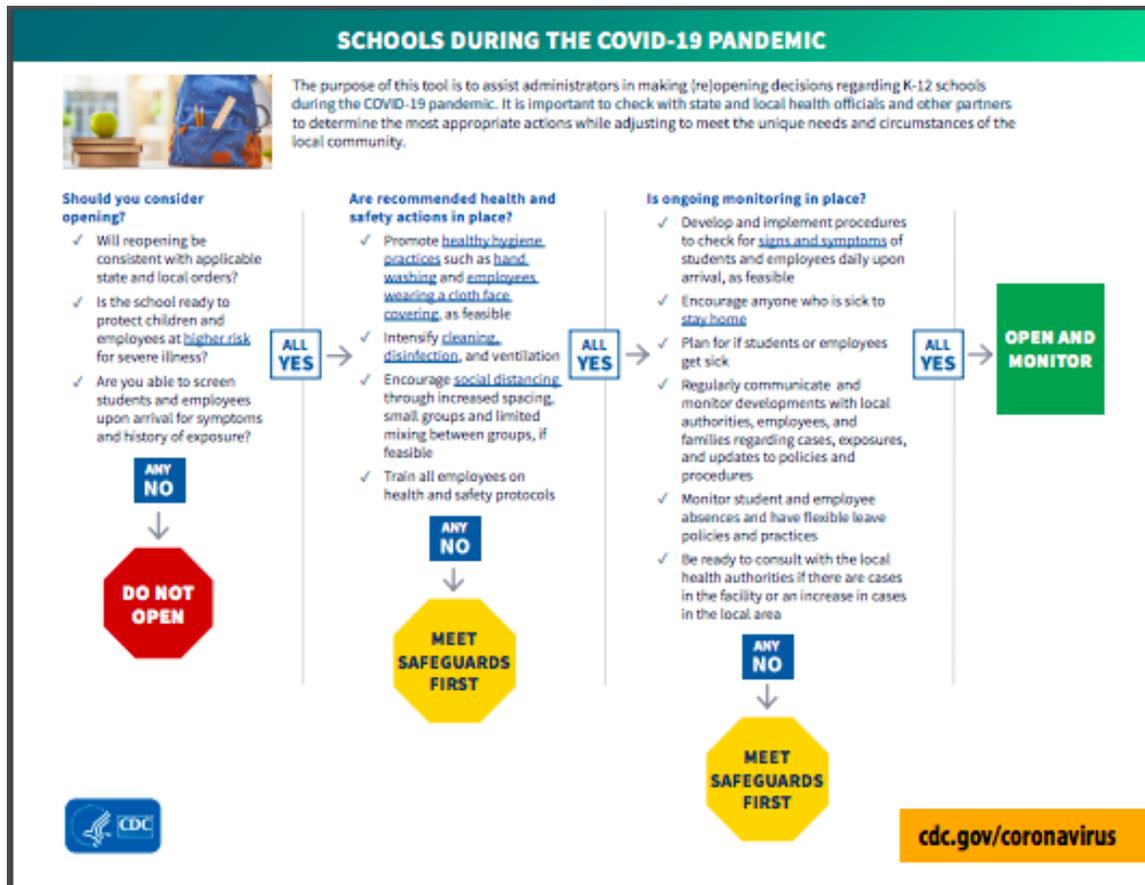
In an effort to “think big” about responding to the effects of COVID-19 on the economy and people’s livelihoods, House Democrats revealed a fourth relief package with a price tag of \$3 trillion. The bill is known as the “Heroes Act.” The House is expected to vote on the bill on Friday but it is expected to run into roadblocks after that. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has already indicated his opposition calling the bill “aspirational.” The President has also indicated initial opposition in that he believes there has not been enough time since the \$2 trillion CARES Act for us to know if more legislation is needed.

While the bill is sure to change as it continues through the process, currently the major provisions are as follows:

- \$875 Billion cash for state and local governments - Democrats call this the centerpiece of the package. Local governments have largely been forgotten in previous relief packages.
- \$20 Billion for tribal nations and for US territories
- \$75 billion to further ramp up Coronavirus testing and contact tracing - both parties are in agreement that this will expedite the opening of state economies
- Includes provisions to support multi-employer pensions
- \$75 billion for mortgage relief
- \$100 billion in assistance for renters
- \$25 billion for the US Postal Service
- \$3.6 billion for assistance with election security and staffing
- Includes another round of \$1,200 checks for adults making up to \$75,000
- Includes an additional \$10 billion for small businesses that were left out of the initial round of PPP funds

What will the 2021 school year look like?

Parents across Georgia are becoming increasingly concerned and anxious about schools reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. We have heard that the various school systems are considering many options such as early start dates, smaller class sizes, alternative classroom locations, staggered starting times, etc. Below is the recently released CDC chart for reopening schools.



Wi-Fi for Rural Schools

This week, the governor announced a donation from AT&T to the Department of Education. This donation consists of 448 Wi-Fi rangers that will go to 36 school districts. All of the school districts are in rural Georgia and were chosen based on poverty level, school status, and the school’s current technology inventory. To see which schools will be receiving the rangers, and for more details, visit <https://madmimi.com/s/1187b01>.

Covid-19 Testing Updates

As a reminder, testing is now available for all Georgians, whether or not they have symptoms. Georgians are asked to contact their local healthcare providers or any Georgia public health department to schedule a test. To find a local public health department, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/>.

National Guard Aid

The Georgia National Guard continues to be a great resource during the pandemic. They currently have 3,183 members engaged in the response. These teams include: Medical Support Teams, Infection Control Teams, Hospital Entry Control Teams, Food Bank Support, and support for increased testing. They are also serving at 13 of the DPH's 18 Regional Health Offices.

WellStar Update

Earlier this week, WellStar provided a positive update on the status of their hospitals. They reported they provided 522 outpatient surgeries and 677 outpatient procedures with no safety issues since the allowance of elective procedures. All of the hospitals are testing patients for COVID-19 at least 48 hours before their procedure. WellStar said they are seeing an overall decrease in COVID-19 patients. They have doubled their ICU capacity and their ER usage is down 40%. Overall, there are 132 ventilators in use- this is less than half of the ventilator capacity and only 118 of those are COVID-19 patients. They are continuing to see patients recover. One of the newest therapies is the use of convalescent plasma. This is plasma from recovered COVID patients. All WellStar facilities are utilizing this therapy and over 80 patients will receive it.

Business Updates

This week, more and more businesses announced their reopening's. Some of the restaurants who opened for dine-in as of this week are Cafe Intermezzo, Buckhead Diner, California Pizza Kitchen, Copelands, Dantanna's, Houston's, Maggiano's, Le Colonial, and STK. For a full list, visit <https://whatnowatlanta.com/heres-a-running-list-of-restaurants-that-have-are-reopening-dining-rooms-patios/>

Thank you!

As we navigate this situation into the next phases, we will not stop working to protect your interests at the state and local level. While we see light at the end of the tunnel, it is clear that we will not return to normalcy for some time. We will continue to meet remotely and social distance but we will get things done!