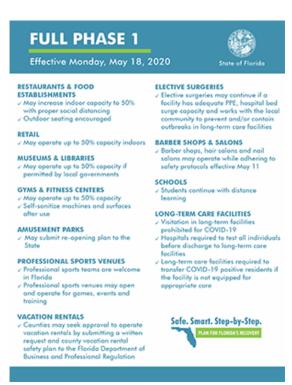


Floridians,

The effects of COVID-19 have forever changed our way of life, but step-by-step, I believe Floridians are excited see the state gradually reopen. As we continue to monitor the threat of COVID-19, the Department of Financial Services is working every day to ensure we remain committed to addressing the impacts the virus has had on our communities and economy. Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced the Full Phase 1 re-open plan and I believe this step is great news for our hospitality, retail and tourism industries while ensuring Floridians can get back to work safely. More information on the Full Phase 1 is available below.



In addition to this, I recently <u>announced</u> that in the next legislative session, I will pursue legislation to establish vital liability protections for businesses. We are currently working with stakeholders to craft legislation that will head-off predatory lawsuits, in order to protect Florida's economy and get Floridians back to work. The legislation will take away incentives for lawyers to engage in predatory 'sue and settle' tactics and shield small businesses from liability for COVID-19 related claims, while still allowing legitimate lawsuits to move forward.



Over the last two weeks, we have also seen a tremendous amount of wildfire devastation in the Panhandle and Southwest Florida. Last week, the Department <u>deployed seven Fire Strike Teams</u> from across the state to assist the Florida Forestry Service and local fire departments with the wildfires in Collier County. I cannot thank these brave men and women enough for their service and commitment to protecting our communities.

I encourage all Floridians to be aware and prepared for seasonally heightened wildfire activity. While our state continues to monitor and assist with the threat of COVID-19, Floridians must be proactive in preparing for the other threats to our safety, specifically during elevated wildfire conditions. As we've recently seen, wildfires can start quickly and engulf entire neighborhoods in a matter of hours. Check your local fire forecasts, inspect your property for any fire hazards, and make a plan to protect your family and your property.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patronis Chief Financial Officer State of Florida

