

CORONAVIRUS

"We are not returning to normal," warns the Governor of California

As the state prepares for the start of phase 2, which includes the reopening of some businesses and activities, Newsom warned that this is not a return to normal and that it will not come until a vaccine is developed.

JORGE MACÍAS

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Waitress Fátima Hernández (center) talks with Lulú Salcido) right = and Hamid Farzam, at the El Tiempo canteen in Houston Texas. The restaurant reopened to the public on May 1, a similar move being debated in California. Credit: David J. Phillip / AP

As many California retail businesses prepare to restart business on Friday, the Governor of California warned that "we are not returning to normal."

At a news conference in front of a small Sacramento business, Newsom said what starts now "is a new normal with adaptations and modifications, until we get immunity and (have) a vaccine."

Newsom [announced this week that some](#) retail [sectors](#) - bookstores, clothing stores, sporting goods stores and flower shops - can resume activities as long as their local authorities give their approval and make changes to how they operate. The governor will detail the new guidelines this week. It is part of phase two for the economic reopening of the state.

Newsom's decision has coincided with a government report from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) predicting that covid-19 cases would reach 200,000 per day by June 1, and that they would be accompanied by more than 3,000 deaths every day.

"If we all stop applying social distancing, mathematically it is possible to have 40 million deaths worldwide," Dr. [Ilan Shapiro, Altamed's director of education and](#)

[welfare](#), told Univision News . "That would happen, if we calculate a low number, the 3 or 4% of the world population that would die."

Shapiro indicated that, in addition to the government's indicators to reopen the economy, it is necessary to know how many people are hospitalized, how many people are in intensive care and how many people are dying.

"Also, we need to have a way of tracking cases of possible infections that have not been taken into account, and that everyone understands the strategy that is followed, because each region of the country is different," he added.

Starting Friday, partner manufacturers supporting "nonessential" businesses opening Friday will also be able to resume activity. Restaurants will be opened in some rural counties, which have established dinner protocols based on social distancing.

Counties that opened receive criticism

Starting Monday, in Sutter and Yuba counties, northern California, on the border with the state of Oregon, Phuong Luu, Public Health Officer for both counties released guidelines for opening small, medium businesses and high risk.

In that region of 178,000 inhabitants as a whole, only two diners members of the same family will be allowed in a restaurant, while beauty salons, spas, tattoo parlors and other personal care services will have to adhere to a duration of 30 minutes or less when there is close personal contact, in order to ensure that the intensity of the contact can hardly be "average".

California Governor Says Everything is Ready to Enter Phase 2 of Economic Revival

"I don't think the reopening is dangerous for us," Russ Brown, a spokesman for both counties, told Univision News. "We are not San Diego or Los Angeles; I think that each local government has to apply its own control plan. "

In [Yuba](#) there have been 16 cases of [covid-19](#) and one death. In [Sutter County](#), there were 28 cases and two deaths.

Another county that restarted commercial activities is Modoc, with 8,777 inhabitants, in which no case of [covid-19](#) has been registered .

During a visit to small businesses in Sacramento, the capital of California, Governor Newsom criticized the decision of those three counties to reopen an important part of their economies, and pointed out to the local press that "they are making a big mistake."

"They are putting the public at risk; they are putting our progress at risk, "Newsom told the local press.

The risks ahead

Governor Newsom's bid to reopen the economy is based on the stability of hospitalizations, on having a solid inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the capacity for medical care, although this has health experts concerned about if his decision is correct, especially due to a possible second wave of infections such as the one that [killed 3,000 people and infected 45,000 in the Bay Area during the 1918 Spanish flu.](#)

"If states increase their activities and the movement of people, coronavirus cases are likely to increase," Dr. Matthew M. Davis , director of research at the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute in Chicago , told Univision News . **"A second wave of infections can occur, and perhaps even a third wave."**

Dr. Davis added that, at the same time, "we know that keeping so many businesses closed is very difficult for individuals and families in terms of work, housing, food and health; To keep our population as safe as possible, we need to increase [covid-19](#) testing , so that we can provide appropriate medical care for people who are sick. "

"Also, we must remember how important it is to wash our hands, wear face covers, stay home if we are sick, and try to keep surfaces clean at work and at home," he said. Together, we can prevent the spread of infection and coronavirus cases in the future. "

"History must not repeat itself"

Dr. George Rutherford, III, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), told Univision News that he agrees with the partial reopening of the economy in California.

"Despite this, people have to continue taking precautions and not risk themselves contagion in crowds of people," she told Univisión Noticias.

Rutherford indicated that, [unlike the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic](#) , a little over a century later, "I think we have probably maximized the benefit of staying at home for almost two months, but we must be vigilant in the summer and fall, especially when children return to schools where more cases could be seen (from [covid-19](#)); This is how epidemics work, when there is transmission and the virus can be among them ".

So far, 58,303 covid-19 cases and a total of 2,364 deaths have been reported in California, and of these, 55.5% or 1,313 have occurred in Los Angeles County.

"The history of the Spanish Flu is real and we do not want it to repeat itself," Jacqueline Valenzuela, Principal Advisor to Dr. Barbara Ferrer, [Los Angeles County Public Health Officer](#) , told Univision News . "We want to use the history, monitor and analyze the data we have, our health infrastructure, that there is sufficient professional protection team for medical professionals, have sufficient evidence, follow up on contacts, and ensure that we will make decisions in Calm down and we'll only

reopen until no one's life is put at risk in the 88 county towns and the city of Los Angeles... We're in no rush. ”