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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW “LIMITED TIME” MITIGATION MEASURES OVER HOLIDAY SEASON

December 11, 2020

During a press conference on Thursday, December 10, 2020, Governor Wolf announced a new [Order](#) directing “limited time” targeted mitigation measures which take effect on December 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., and extend through January 4, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The new mitigation measures are in response to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases throughout Pennsylvania.

The new mitigation measures for businesses include:

- **Gatherings**
 - Indoor gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people.
 - Outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than 50 people.
- **Retail Food Services** (restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, distilleries, social clubs, private catered events)
 - In-person dining is suspended.
 - Outdoor dining and take-out/curbside delivery may continue.
- **In-person operations for the following businesses are not permitted:**
 - Theaters
 - Museums
 - Movie Theaters
 - Concert Venues
 - Arcades
 - Bowling Alleys
 - Private Clubs
 - Gyms and Fitness Centers
 - Similar entertainment, recreational or social facilities
- **In-person operations for businesses that serve the public are limited to 50% occupancy.**

Churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and other places of worship are specifically excluded from the new mitigation efforts, however, conventions, retreats and other gatherings sponsored or held by religious entities, that are not actual worship services, are subject to the restrictions.

The Governor’s Order also suspends school-related extra-curricular activities, with the exception of college and professional sports.

Vaccines

During the press conference, Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Levine expects the FDA and CDC to authorize the Pfizer vaccine today, with distribution beginning next week. The distribution protocol in Pennsylvania will prioritize healthcare workers and first responders, followed by residents of nursing homes. Dr. Levine also anticipates that the Moderna vaccine will be authorized within the next week.

If you have questions about how the new limited time mitigation measures impact your business, or other issues related to COVID-19, BCGL's Employment Law Team of [Theresa Mongiovi](#) and [Angela Sanders](#) are available to assist.