

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY

New Orleans Re-Opening

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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New Orleans Begins Phased Re-Opening

A Guide to the New Normal



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell has ordered an end to two-month Stay-At-Home Order and begin Phase One of the City Reopening. It is part of a phased in approach to the City re-opening in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Data News Staff Edited Report

In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic it's created a New Normal for us all. As we move into a phased approach to re-opening, we at Data New Weekly as the "People's Paper" wanted to give our citizens information about how in New Orleans the process will occur.

Understanding that we all want to go back to life Pre-COVID-19 life in our City, but we must do all we can to abide by the instructions if we are to get back to our life where we can enjoy the greatest city in the world. We can only move forward in achieving this by doing what is required in each phase of the City's re-opening plan.

Phase One: Safest at Home

Phase One will ease the Stay Home Order and restrictions on some low-risk operations, while implementing limits on occupancy, social distancing measures, and requirements for personal protective equipment. If milestones for progress are not met or if there is a spike in cases or deaths, it may be necessary

On the Cover: Photo by mana5280 on Unsplash

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to move back to stricter measures. Phase One in Orleans Parish will begin at 6 a.m. Saturday, May 16th.

Phase Two: Safer at Home

Phase Two will ease restrictions on medium risk operations, while continuing limits on occupancy, social distancing measures, and requirements for personal protective equipment. Sector-specific guidelines will be in place to ensure safe operations. Large gatherings will continue to be prohibited due to the significant risk of rapid spread through groups. High-risk residents, like seniors and people with serious medical conditions should continue to stay home. When criteria are met, the City may ease restrictions and progress to Phase Three.

Phase Three: Safe for Most

Phase Three will ease restrictions on higher risk operations, while continuing limits on occupancy, social distancing measures, and requirements for personal protective equipment. Sector-specific guidelines will be in place to ensure safe operations. Large gatherings will continue to be prohibited due to the significant risk of rapid spread through groups. High-risk residents, like seniors and people with serious medical conditions should continue to stay home. When criteria are met, the City may ease restrictions and progress to Phase Four.

Phase Four: Safe in a Herd

Phase Four will occur with a vaccine or widespread immunity in the population. It will largely resemble pre-COVID-19 life, although some restrictions may remain necessary.

What Stays the Same?

- Continue to stay home except for essential needs and other permitted activities on a limited basis.
- Seniors and people with serious medical conditions should continue to stay home.
- Gatherings are limited to a household size. Limit the number of people with whom you regularly come into contact to a small and consistent "crew."
- Everyone must wear a mask or face covering when performing activities in public. You do not need to wear a face covering while performing outdoor recreation, but you must abide by all social distancing and hygiene rules.

Orleans Parish COVID-19 Dashboard



Statistics on COVID-19 cases in New Orleans. It shows more African Americans are dying from COVID-19 than other groups. This also speaks to larger issues of health disparities that make the African American population more vulnerable. It is something that's created conversations around reversing this trend.



The New Normal...Social Distancing.

giene rules.

- Practice social distancing, wash hands often, and frequently disinfect surfaces.
- Continue to work from home if you are able.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive, you must quarantine for

14 days.

- All non-essential businesses and organizations will continue to stay closed during Phase One, except under the following conditions, as outlined by the Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office. These exceptions are only allowed while paired with strict requirements for so-

cial distancing, face coverings and other PPE, and hygiene and cleaning protocols.

Operations Allowed in Phase One

If you intend to open an eligible Phase One business or organization in Orleans Parish, you are required to register with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office at [OpenSafely.la.gov](https://www.opensafely.la.gov). Also, all businesses are required to follow State Fire Marshal guidelines.

Shopping malls and retail stores

- Stores within malls with no exterior entrances remain closed.
- Food service establishments
- Restaurants with table service should utilize a reservation or appointment
- Video poker is not allowed.
- Off-street parking requirements are temporarily suspended, and temporary Sidewalk Use Permits will be issued free of charge so you can expand outdoor seating.

Beauty salons, barber shops, and nail salons

- Service by reservation or appointment only.

Houses of worship

- Services are limited to 25% of permitted occupancy or 100 people, whichever is fewer.
- No choirs permitted.

Movie theaters

- Limited to 25% of permitted occu-

pancy or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

Museums, zoos, aquariums

- Admission must be staggered using an appointment or reservation system.

Gyms and Fitness Centers

- Contact sports and group fitness classes are not allowed.
- No use of locker rooms, showers, saunas, or spas allowed.

Outdoor recreation spaces, sports complexes, parks, and playgrounds

- Gatherings limited to a household size.

Racetracks

- Casinos and video poker not allowed.

Not Allowed in Phase One

- Casinos and video poker (not allowed in Orleans Parish)
- Spas, Tattoo, and Massage establishments
- Live entertainment, Amusement, and event venues
- Children's museums
- Bars without food permits
- Private gatherings with more than a reasonable household size

Data News Weekly Encourages all to continue to stay safe during this phased in re-opening, it not only will restore our City, it will save lives.

New Orleans Re-Opening

Phase 1

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

After two months of a Stay-At-Home Order New Orleans is entering Phase 1 of re-opening. While this means that some businesses are re-opening does not mean things in the City are back to the way they were Pre-COVID-19. During the Stay-At-Home Order people have been using social media in many ways posting photos of what they are doing and also what is important to them. At Data News Weekly we as "The People's Paper" are beginning our re-opening series where we will highlight photos people are posting to their social media pages and also special events. Remember to stay safe and we will make it thorough this together.



Visual Artist Lionel Milton poses with his mural dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photographer Peter Nakhid and his granddaughter Amahle Nakhid.



Renown New Orleans Musician Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews with visual artist Jamar Duvol Pierre, whose murals and fine art pieces display scenes of life in New Orleans.



Nathanael Scales President/CEO of Garden Doctors Architectural & Landscape Construction Firm with his daughter Aspen Emma Scales.



Stephanie Osborne, Meditation Guide/Yoga Instructor and her sister Jennifer Rogers, who is a High School Teacher.



WAYS TO DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

**WASH YOUR HANDS FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS • WEAR APPROVED MASKS
MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING - 6 FEET • STAY HOME**

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES YOU CAN ENJOY

**WALKS AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
JOGGING
BIKE RIDING**

**KEEP CALM THROUGH COVID HOTLINE
866.310.7977**

**DIAL 211
FOR THE LOUISIANA 211 NETWORK**

**TEXT "LACOVID"
TO 898-211
FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFO**

Get Serious
LOUISIANA
USE YOUR HEAD...STOP THE SPREAD!
STOP COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS.LA.GOV

Metro Service Group

"Our Top Priority is the Safety of our Team Members"

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Metro Service Group is a company that was co-founded by brothers Jimmie M. Woods and Glenn H. Woods. It directly employs approximately 250 people in New Orleans and approximately 76 contract laborers through various labor staffing services.

The over three decades old company collects residential sanitation at approximately 66,115 homes in New Orleans, largely in Lakeview, N.O. East, Lower 9th Ward and Gentilly.

Over its existence Metro have been on the frontlines as an African-American business that's built from the ground up starting with one truck to become a leader in the sanitation industry and building a solid reputation as a successful business in addition to contributing to various civic causes throughout the City of New Orleans.

Co-Founder Jimmie M. Woods, spoke to Data News Weekly about his company and the recent dispute where a small group of workers who were contracted through a third-party went on strike and are making claims that work conditions are unsafe and they are being underpaid.

Claims that in the face of facts says Woods are patently false.

"We have built a great reputation and it is important to present the facts surrounding this issue, so that people know we care about our employees and are committed to their safety and paying them livable wages in accordance with our contract with the City of New Orleans."



"We have built a great reputation and it is important to present the facts surrounding this issue so that people know we care about our employees and are committed to their safety and paying them livable wages in accordance with our contract with the City of New Orleans," says Metro Service Group Co-Founder and CEO Jimmie M. Woods.

In a fact sheet that was distributed to the media, Metro outlines their position on these issues at the heart of the dispute. In addition, they also note things they are doing to address these issues and ways they are working towards resolutions.

"When we started this company, we were the hoppers, the drivers, the mechanics and we learned every aspect of our business and as we take all this into account when we make decisions running our company. We are a family business and we care about our employees and we are most proud of our workforce that are predominately African Americans and that we can help them provide for themselves and their families"

These are some of the bullet points supplied to Data News Weekly by Metro Service Group:

PPE and Worker Health Conditions

- Metro Services has consistently paid the living wage as outlined by City Ordinance for both direct employees and subcontractors. The CPI adjusted living wage is \$11.19/hr.
- The individuals who are striking are employees of PeopleReady, one of several contracting companies that Metro – and other sanitation companies - use.
- None of Metro's direct employees are on strike.
- Metro has been assured by all its contractors that no one working on behalf of Metro is being paid less than the current living wage of \$11.19/hour.
- No one has been fired due to the strike. PeopleReady has confirmed this in writing, Metro did not fire anyone, and no striker

has been able to demonstrate that they were fired, because they were not.

- PeopleReady has informed its employees who are on strike that they may come back at any time – to work on the Metro account or for another client.
- Metro has welcomed an opportunity for a dialog with the strikers presented by Councilman Jason Williams. While there are existing differences of opinion, these are very real and complex issues that deserve to be addressed in fact, based solution driven dialog.
- Metro purchased at its own expense 15,000 masks, 2,000 pairs of gloves, additional bandanas, hand sanitizer etc. for all its employees, as well as contracted labor. Allegations of lack of PPE are false.
- At the beginning of each shift

Metro's Safety Staff provide all employees with health and safety guidance and encourage employees to use their PPE appropriately.

- PeopleReady also provides their own PPE to employees they assign to work for Metro.

Hazard Pay

- Metro Service Group fully supports hazard pay for sanitation workers and others on the front line in this challenging COVID-19 environment. As our letter of May 1st to Congressman Richmond demonstrates, our position in this regard has been clear since before this demand was made by some of our contract "hoppers". Without any doubt, our employees and contractors and others in the sanitation field deserve hazard pay.
- As has been made clear by a majority of Members of the United States Congress in a recent congressional vote, hazard pay must be provided by the government at some level, especially as the work in question is being performed for a governmental entity. As stated above, this is why Metro fully supports the Heroes Act and has encouraged Louisiana's Congressional Delegation to do the same.

Woods says it is important to put the facts out there surrounding this issue to paint a clearer picture of the situation.

"It is our hope that with the information we distributed to the media and to the public that it shows that Metro Service Group is a company that is working in the best interest of all our employees to provide a safe workplace and to provide them with a livable wage."

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Joe Biden's Plan for Empowering Black America

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

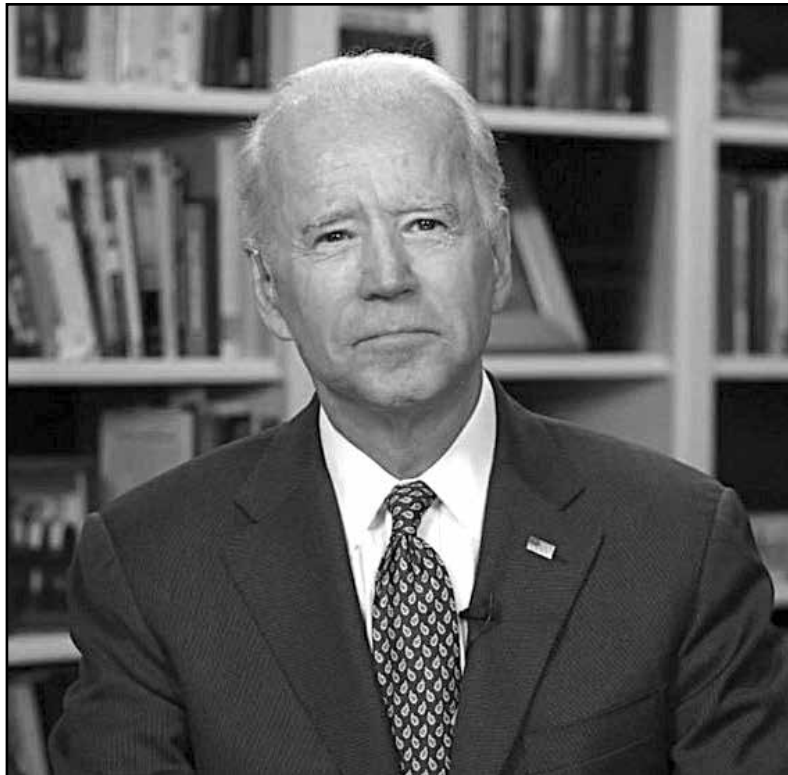
When former Vice President Joe Biden sat for an exclusive live stream interview with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. in February, the now presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said it was crucial to secure the Black vote if he is to unseat President Donald Trump in November 2020.

Now, the two-time former second-in-command to President Barack Obama has laid out a comprehensive plan for African Americans.

Biden said the plan reflects many months of work and feedback from local elected officials, activists, organizations, practitioners, policy experts, strategists, and young people. His campaign called the plan "a living document."

It said the Biden team looks forward to hearing from everyone as they continue to develop the Democrat's vision for all of America.

In a news release, the campaign noted that Biden "knows we need a comprehensive agenda for African Americans with an ambition that matches the scale of the challenge



Biden said he plans to hold financial institutions accountable for discriminatory practices in the housing market, and he will restore the federal government's power to enforce settlements against discriminatory lenders.

and with a recognition that race-neutral policies are not a sufficient response to race-based disparities."

They said the Biden Plan for Black America would:

- Advance the economic mobil-

ity of African Americans and close the racial wealth and income gaps.

- Expand access to high-quality education and tackle racial inequity in our education system.

- Make far-reaching investments in ending health disparities

by race.

- Strengthen America's commitment to justice.

- Make the right to vote and the right to equal protection real for African Americans.

- Address environmental justice.

"Joe Biden knows that African Americans can never have a fair shot at the American Dream so long as entrenched disparities are allowed to chip away at opportunity quietly," his campaign's statement noted.

"He is running for President to rebuild our economy in a way that finally brings everyone along – and that starts by rooting out systemic racism from our laws, our policies, our institutions, and our hearts."

"Today, we need a comprehensive agenda for African Americans with an ambition that matches the scale of the challenge and with a recognition that race-neutral policies are not a sufficient response to race-based disparities," Biden stated.

Biden said he plans to hold financial institutions accountable for discriminatory practices in the housing market, and he will restore the federal government's power to enforce settlements against discriminatory lenders.

DATA CLASSIFIED

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Publisher's Note

Working Together *The Road to Re-Opening*



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

The City is beginning its re-opening after being shut down for two months because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. As the Publisher of Data News Weekly, I would like

to say that we are on the frontlines, giving you news, you can use to keep you safe.

We are continuing in our mission as "The People's Paper." And as our City is moving into a new normal, we are encouraging you to take seriously the phased in approach and do the things that will keep all of our citizens safe.

As we all know, fighting to defeat COVID-19 is a worldwide challenge, but this is not a road we haven't been down before. For we in New Orleans are the face of resilience for the world. We have shown through-

out our history that we can recover from disaster and come back better. This time is no different.

Data News Weekly is committed to be the paper that educates, informs, and inspire our community in these tough times. We will get through this and again be able to live in "America's Greatest City" where we can continue to live with a rich cultural life like no other city in the world.

While we have an amazing culture, our greatest resource

is the people of our City who always find a way to make lemonade out of lemons; and we do this by caring about their neighbors and working together.

This time we are doing it by practicing new habits and that will be our norm through the several phases of re-opening. In this fight we all have a role to play in this being a success, so let's roll up our sleeves and get to work on making it through Phase One, where we work together for a better tomorrow by making better decisions today.

This space can be

yours for only \$80

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504-821-7421



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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