



News

American Industries®



May 2020
2nd edition

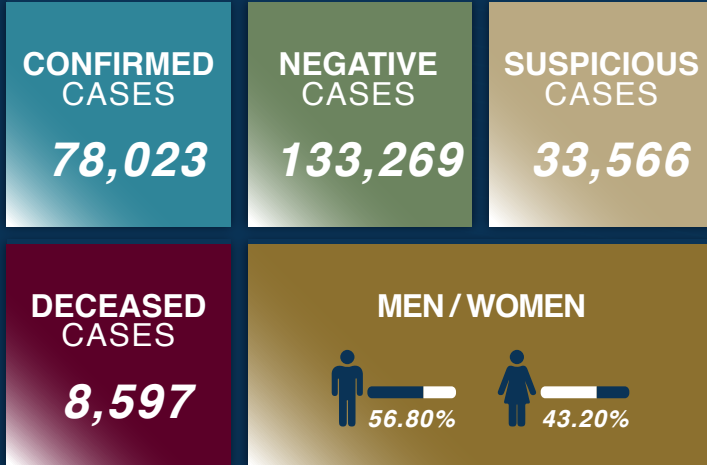


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Mexico COVID-19 STATS



Confirmed Cases
Map

Plan to Reopen / Mexican Industry

GUIDELINES FOR A SAFE RETURN OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

As part of the new normal in the country, the Ministry of Health published guidelines for the reopening of Mexico's social, educational, and economic activities. They set out a timeline for resuming activities in a gradual and coordinated manner to ensure that it be done safely and permanently.

- The strategy outlined in these guidelines begins with an initial stage starting on May 18 that will allow some towns that currently have little or no spread of COVID-19 to resume normal activities. These towns, also called "municipalities of hope," may even be able to permanently resume activities as of this date.
- During the second stage (from May 18 to June 1) mining, construction, and transport equipment manufacturing companies that are seeking to resume operations before June 1 can do so upon receiving approval from the relevant authorities.

To obtain this approval, companies must develop and implement health protocols in their workplaces and send these protocols to the authority, which must respond to their request within 72 hours. It is worth mentioning that only companies that obtain this approval will be able to resume activities.

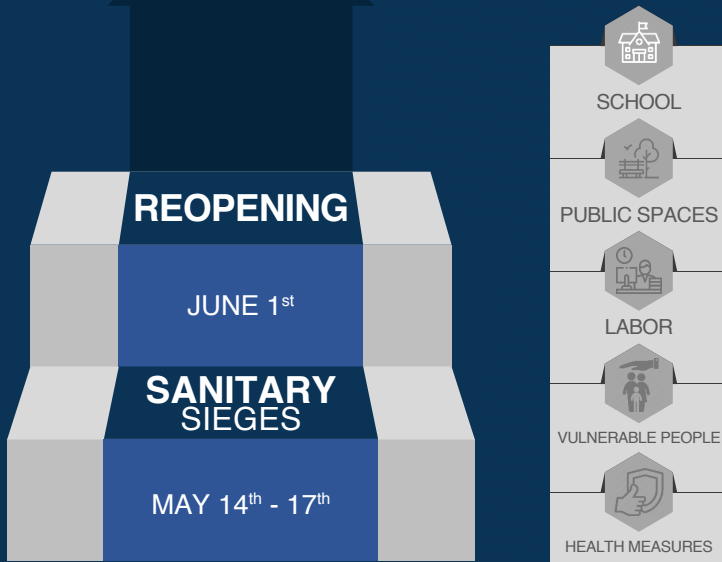
The health protocols must include measures to be taken for all administrative, engineering, training, and communication activities, as well as the use of necessary PPE for employees.

- In stage three, activities will be gradually reopened according to a traffic light system defined for each region. Each area's risk warning will be assessed and shared on a weekly basis by the health authority. Depending on the area the company is located and its warning level, additional restrictions or requirements may be established.

Every company in all sectors and industries are required to implement health protocols in workplaces. These protocols are subject to evaluation by the authorities, who may require them to implement more strict measures. The goal of this strategy is to ensure citizens' safety and prevent the further spread of the disease while helping the country's most important industries to move towards economic recovery.

On May 18, Mexico will begin to move towards a new normal, meaning companies will have to adapt to this ongoing health crisis.

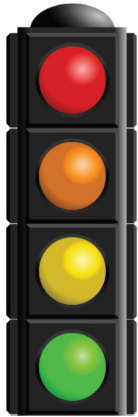
HOPE MUNICIPALITIES
(269 municipalities - 15 states)



RISK WARNING BY REGION
TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

(June 1st)

ACTIVITIES	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN
HEALTH MEASURES	Public health measures are maintained in all levels of the system			
LABOR	Only essential	Essential and 30% non-essential	Essential and non-essential activities are restarted	
PUBLIC SPACES	Not allowed	30% open spaces	70% open spaces and 30% closed spaces	100% of open and closed spaces
VULNERABLE PERSONS	Not allowed	Maximum care	Medium care	Cautionary care
SCHOOL	Restart of school activities is not allowed			Restart of school activities



MAXIMUM:

Only essential activities are allowed.
This includes, mining, construction and the manufacture of transport equipment.

HIGH:

Essential activities are allowed to operate and non-essential activities are reduced.
Highest level of care must be taken with vulnerable workers.

INTERMEDIATE:

Activities limited to public space with full economic activity.

NORMAL:

Resumption of academic, social and leisure activities; all economic activities will be allowed.

U.S. - MEXICO BORDER TO REMAIN CLOSED
TO 'NON-ESSENTIAL' TRAVEL THROUGH JUNE 22

The U.S.-Mexico border will remain closed to "non-essential" travel through June, according to statements issued by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday.

"Our efforts over the last several months to limit non-essential travel have been successful and now is not the time to change course," said DHS Acting Sec. Chad Wolf in a statement.

DHS first restricted all non-essential travel at the U.S.-Mexico border on March 20 and extended the restrictions April 20 for an additional 30 days. In a separate notification to be published in the federal register, DHS indicated the restrictions would remain in place until June 22.

"Non-essential" travel includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature, DHS said. Commercial trucking and trade aren't affected by the restrictions.

In practice, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents have been able to cross the U.S. - Mexico border freely, as have those with valid U.S. work authorization, while Mexican holders of the B1/B2 visa -best known as a laser visa or border crossing card- have been largely prohibited from entering the U.S.

• Source: El Paso Times

RELEVANT regional information

CHIHUAHUA

Chihuahua State Government: Timeline for a Safe Return to Economic Activities

Javier Corral, the governor of Chihuahua, met with representatives of chambers of commerce and industry associations to discuss the details of the traffic light warning system that will allow for the safe and orderly reopening of the state and acknowledged the support of the business sector during this crisis and his commitment to make the health of the citizens of Chihuahua a priority.

In a meeting with representatives of state chambers and business organizations, specifically those from the cities of Chihuahua and Juárez, the Governor Javier Corral Jurado explained the criteria of the timeline established for the gradual, safe, and orderly process to reactivate the state's economy.

During the Chihuahua Adelante Program broadcasted on social media networks, the Governor said that the meeting, which included organizations such as the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Hotels and Tourist Services, and the economic development departments of Juárez and Chihuahua, was very productive.

He went on to share that the State Government will soon be releasing a timeline, that despite being subject to change at any time, will outline "how, as of June 1, the traffic light warning system will be implemented and what elements, factors, or conditions must be in place so that we can change color, allowing us to gradually open up more economic activities, and of course, cultural activities,

recreational sports, and other social activities in the state of Chihuahua."

He acknowledged the support of business organizations in the city of Chihuahua, saying that "we are on the same page; we agree that with this economic reactivation is about more than just income and employment for families, but also the health of all citizens of Chihuahua."

Corral Jurado reiterated that the goal of the economic reactivation is to not jeopardize all the efforts that have been made to avoid a high peak in the epidemic curve and risk another outbreak that could be caused by opening up economic activities too quickly.

"Because this process is not only about health protocols to protect workers in Chihuahua, but also about carefully and gradually reactivating the economy, because if the process gets out of control, this will significantly increase the movement of people around the state and the number of people outside of their homes," he insisted.

• **Source:** chihuahua.gob.mx

CHIHUAHUA	
Date	May 27
Confirmed Cases	1,356
Discarded Cases	1,708
Suspected Cases	1,244
Recovered Cases	961
Deceased Cases	285

NUEVO LEON

Nuevo León Allows an Increase in Public Transport Service

The Institute of Mobility and Accessibility (IMA) of Nuevo León issued orders on Tuesday allowing an increase in all modes of public transport service, effective immediately during rush hours (from 9:30am to 2:00pm).

Consequently, during the aforementioned schedule, buses will be allowed to circulate according to user demand, with busses coming every half hour, and every 15 minutes for the subway and Ecovía, in order to dissuade people from travelling without an urgent reason.

During rush hour, they will continue to operate normally, as has been done before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citizens are asked to continue to stay at home, to reserve the use of public transport only for essential workers, and follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and the Secretariat of Economy and Labor.

All bus companies and operators are asked to continue to implement the continued prevention measures of sanitizing units at the start and end of each route, circulating with windows open, making the use of masks mandatory, and to charge using a fare card.

Starting this Tuesday, the IMA will redouble public transport inspection and oversight operations to ensure that these guidelines are met, and citizens are invited to report any violations by calling **20-20-73-00**

• **Source:** nl.gob.mx

• **Source:** newsreportmx.com

NUEVO LEON	
Date	May 27
Confirmed Cases	1,288
Discarded Cases	9,628
Suspected Cases	2,188
Recovered Cases	903
Deceased Cases	77

GUANAJUATO

Automotive Companies Perform Self-Evaluation for Return to Work in Guanajuato

In a press release, the Guanajuato Automotive Cluster (CLAUGTO) stated that its member companies are currently in the process of complying with health guidelines in the workplace to resume activities.

The statement from CLAUGTO is as follows:

“The automotive industry has been working on protocols for resuming operations. The Guanajuato Automotive Cluster AC has received notifications from its member companies that they are currently working on complying with the Technical Guidelines for Health and Safety in the Workplace issued by the Government of Mexico, and on the self-evaluation, with the seriousness and commitment required to safeguard the health of the more than 110,000 employees who work the sector in the state.

We are aware that resuming activities in the automotive industry represents a shared responsibility between the government, companies, the supply chain, collaborators and unions.

That is why we also want to take advantage of this means to thank the Governor of the State of Guanajuato, Mr. Diego Sinhue Rodríguez Vallejo, for his support and follow up since the pandemic began to plan for the resuming of automotive industry operations in our state.

Regarding the process of filling out the self-assessment, CLAUGTO will be in constant communication with its members during this process and they can be assured they will be granted approval to return to work.

This self-assessment has 78 points related to health safety in the work environment.

This Active Health Safety Protocol has six sections, which in turn have different categories. The sections are: promotion of health, training, personal protective equipment, and administrative, engineering, and management systems.

Based on the self-assessment, there are three responses that will be given by the authorities: approval, insufficient or denied.

After the self-assessment is completed, it will be sent to the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), which will respond within 72 hours from receiving the document.

We firmly believe that by following the protocols and guidelines indicated by our governments, an orderly, gradual and cautious reopening will be achieved with the goal of continuing to take care of the health of our collaborators, and at the same time reactivate the Mexican economy for a prompt economic recovery.

The success of the reopening of the automotive industry in Guanajuato and Mexico will undoubtedly be a responsibility shared by companies, the government and the support of our employees.

• **Source:** CLAUGTO - Press Release

GUANAJUATO	
Date	May 27
Confirmed Cases	1,238
Discarded Cases	9,615
Suspected Cases	814
Recovered Cases	745
Deceased Cases	101

JALISCO

Governor clarifies reopening “misunderstanding”

Phase Zero, the first stage of Jalisco’s gradual reopening of its economy, kicked in last Monday with the start of a two-week period for nonessential businesses to make preparations for opening their doors for the first time since mid-March.

Although confusing messages relayed by the state government caused many media outlets to believe the easing of restrictions would start on May 18, Jalisco Governor Enrique Alfaro explained late last week that he had been misunderstood and that the “new normalcy” will begin on Monday, June 1— in line with federal policy.

Industries linked to vital supply chains can resume operations, working at 50 percent capacity and with strict health and safety protocols.

The rules will be stringent, and obligatory testing of employees for COVID-19 will be applied for all firms with more than 100 employees.

To register, business owners must go to sira.jalisco.gob.mx, review the protocol corresponding to their business sector, sign a commitment letter and wait for the visit of an inspector for certification and issuance of a verification badge.

The start date of the next, wider phase of reopening will depend on the progression of COVID-19 in Jalisco, state authorities say.

• **Source:** theguadalajarareporter.net

JALISCO	
Date	May 27
Confirmed Cases	1,355
Discarded Cases	9,285
Suspected Cases	862
Recovered Cases	837
Deceased Cases	126

QUERETARO

Queretaro's Automotive Industry will Resume Operations at a 70% Capacity

According to the president of the Employers' Confederation of the Mexican Republic in Queretaro (COPARMEX), Lorena Jiménez Salcedo, the resuming of added essential activities in the state will be implemented gradually, with the automotive industry resuming operations at 60 or 70% of its capacity as the result of a decline in the global automotive market.

She explained that COPARMEX has contacted members of the Querétaro Automotive Cluster, proposing that about 350 tier 1 and tier 2 firms resume work gradually.

On the other hand, due to the contraction in the automotive sector, local automakers foresee a reduction of 30 to 40% in their annual production levels. The automotive market projects a 21% drop in car sales, which will result in a lower level of production in the supply chain that supports this industry.

"This year, the idea of selling 20 million cars globally seems very improbable because of everything that has happened. The United States depends mostly on auto parts that come from Mexico and companies are receiving a lot of pressure from their clients," said Jiménez Salcedo.

The head of the Mexican entity added that resuming operations in the state's productive sectors will not depend solely on dates but on safety and hygiene conditions and companies' compliance with health protocols.

• **Source:** El Economista

QUERETARO	
Date	May 27
Confirmed Cases	786
Discarded Cases	1,419
Suspected Cases	233
Recovered Cases	451
Deceased Cases	80

ADVICE TO ISOLATED OR QUARANTINED PERSONS TO PREVENT DEPRESSION:

It can be helpful to offer the following advice to those who are to enter or are already in lock down, working from home, are in isolation or quarantine.

- 1. Stay socially close even when maintaining physical distance:** Stay digitally connected by keeping in touch with friends, colleagues and family using mail, Apps or social media. Watch the same films, read the same books and discuss in virtual meetings, have a chat whilst drinking coffee or of tea together.
- 2. Daily routine:** First of all, plan and uphold a daily routine and also create a well-being plan for the days and weeks.
- 3. Set goals and keep active:** Setting goals and achieving them enhances the sense of control and competency.
- 4. Goals must be realistic in the given circumstances and for staff and volunteers,** it could also be keeping up with paperwork even if not able to work in the field. For some it gives a sense of agency and satisfaction to make a to do list for the day and tick off tasks as they go along.
- 5. Create a list of activities it would be nice to do,** great to have done, books to read or write, music to listen to, food to cook and cakes to bake, paint water colours, knit, stitch and sew, learn a new language or skill, listen to podcasts, clean the house, get fresh air through windows, balcony or garden.
- 6. Plan time alone and time together if living with others:** Create a list of things to do together, read books loud to each other, play board games, listen to and discuss radio, tv and podcasts. Take turns caring for children. There are many online resources for activities to do at home with children.

7. Look for or inject humor into the situation if appropriate: Humor can be a strong antidote to hopelessness.

8. Even smiling and laughing inwardly can provide relief from anxiety and frustration.

9. Maintain hope: Believe in something meaningful, whether family, faith, country or values.

10. Use stress management techniques: Physical relaxation techniques can reduce stress levels and are useful methods to manage pain and emotional turmoil. Most people are familiar with stress management techniques but not all use them in practice; however, this is the time to encourage the use of such techniques.

11. Accept feelings: Being in a stressful situation can cause a lot of different emotional reactions like anger, frustration, anxiety, regrets, second guessing yourself, self-blame etc. These feelings are normal reactions to an abnormal situation.

• **Source:** reliefweb.int





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