

COVID-19: Developing Protocols for Reopening Law Offices: Resources and Considerations

As Oregon lawyers begin thinking about reopening their law firms, there may be understandable confusion about when and how to do this. Neither the OSB nor the PLF can issue you a set of protocols for how you must handle this. We need to look to Governor Kate Brown's office for the proper directives and protocols. **The starting place is [EXECUTIVE ORDER Number 20-12](#) issued by the Office of the Governor of the State of Oregon.**

Governor Brown has continued to stress there needs to be caution regarding our response to COVID-19. If law firms have been able to work remotely, they should continue to do so. If law firms have not been able to successfully work from home, they should follow their county's reopening guidelines.

Certain baseline criteria must be met before a specific county is eligible to apply for state approval to enter Phase 1 of reopening protocols while following health and safety guidelines. As of the date of this publication, not all counties have met the baseline criteria to apply for approval to enter Phase 1 reopening. After 21 days in Phase 1, counties continuing to meet the prerequisites may be able to enter Phase 2. The specifics for Phase 2 are still being worked out. It is important to get the most current mandates and guidelines regarding the state of Oregon's COVID-19 response. The State of Oregon website provides up-to-date information [at Governor Kate Brown's "Building a Safe & Strong Oregon" home page](#) where you can find COVID-19 Resources for Oregonians.

There are many sources of additional information that are helpful, especially from the Oregon Health Authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization. There are too many resources to list here. Below is just a sampling of the many good resources that are available.

1. [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), May 2020 \(CDC\)](#)
2. [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
3. [Reopening Guidance – Cleaning and Disinfecting the Workplace \(CDC\)](#)
4. [COVID-19 Control and Prevention – OSHA](#)
5. [Retail Workers and Employers in Critical and High Customer-Volume Environments](#)
6. [COVID-19: Safety Tips for You – Red Cross](#)
7. [Office Safety Tips – National Safety Council](#)
8. [Getting Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19 \(World Health Organization\)](#)
9. [Coronavirus: Do's and Don'ts for Your Firm \(ABA\)](#)
10. [Cloth Face Coverings \(CDC\)](#)
11. [As States Move to Reopen, Law Firms Exercise Caution](#)

12. [Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Updates](#)
13. [Oregon Health Authority Reopening Criteria](#)
14. [KATU News: Governor Brown Finalizes Phase 1 Guidelines for Reopening Oregon](#)
15. [MBA CLE: After the Quarantine: Employer Issues to Consider](#)
16. [ABA on-demand webinar: Preparing for Re-entry: The Most Important Takeaways from COVID-19 Quarantine](#)

Please note: these resource links above are not represented as necessarily being the safest, best, or most current scientific, medical, or public health recommendations for office reopenings in the present COVID-19 environment. Similarly, they are not intended as legal advice regarding law-related issues concerning office reopenings. The links are simply examples of some of the informational resources available online at this time.