

Guide to Reopening After COVID-19: Creating a Plan for Your Facility

Welcome to The Guide to Reopening after COVID-19: Creating a Plan for Your Facility. For healthcare facilities across the nation, 2020 has been a challenge. With many U.S. health systems overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients, others have been forced to postpone elective surgeries, non-essential visits, and more, disrupting critical streams of revenue and jeopardizing access to patient care.

At the time that this guide is written, stay at home orders in many states have been lifted. But as governors declare that facilities may reopen and elective procedures may resume, many facilities are left to create their own plans to reopen and continue operations. They do so in a wholly different landscape than they once operated in, before the introduction of COVID-19.

As a partner and a resource in the area of staffing, licensing, and credentialing, Barton Associates expresses our support. We hope that this guide will help your facility to make informed decisions, find success in reopening, and move forward with confidence in this uncertain time.

Respectfully,

The Barton Associates Team

Table of Contents

- SECTION 1:**
Considering State Level Requirements 3
- SECTION 2:**
Creating Your Plan to Reopen 4
- SECTION 3:**
Anticipating Future Needs 5



Section 1: Considering State Level Requirements

As many COVID-19 related issues are decided by individual states, facilities must consider their state's mandates for reopening. To find what details exist for your state, you'll want to consult with official state websites and executive orders. This will ensure you are working with the most detailed and up-to-date requirements.

Mandates vary greatly, both in terms of scope and level of restriction, but many individual states' officials have given information on some, or all, of the following.

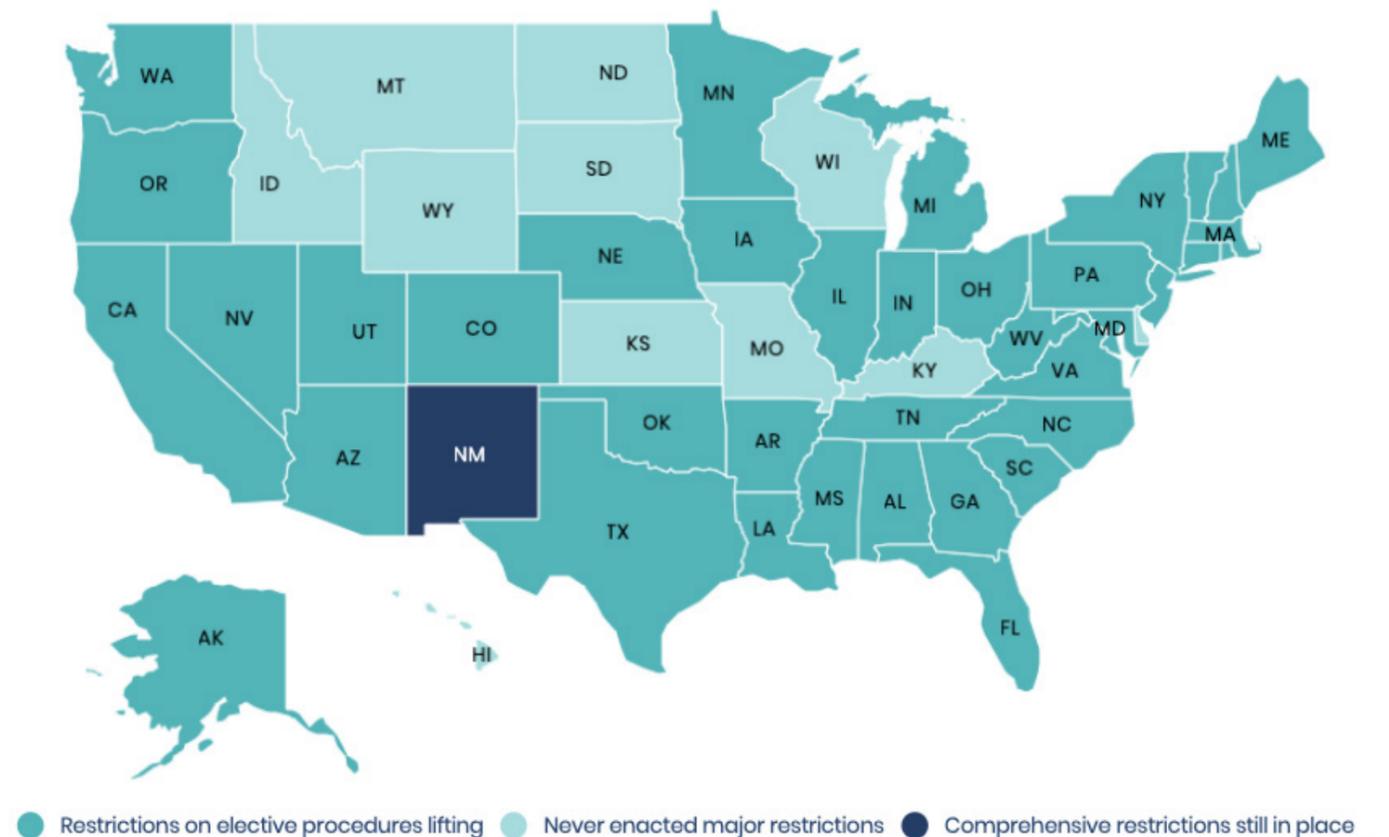
- ✓ What types of procedures are allowed to resume in each state, and when
- ✓ Requirements surrounding case prioritization and individual patient discharge plans
- ✓ Requirements for the separation of COVID-19 patients and other measures to prevent spread

[Find Your State Governor's Website Here](#)

BARTON'S BLOG RESOURCE

For those looking for a high level summary of state restrictions across the country, Barton Associates created the "[States Lifting Bans on Elective Procedures](#)" resource. Visit the blog post to view an interactive map, and current information applicable to each state.

State Updates on Elective Procedures



This map appears in the blog resource put out by Barton Associates. It is not, and should not be used as an exhaustive source of information for your facility as you consider reopening.

Section 2: Creating Your Plan to Reopen

Once you have considered the restrictions that exist in your state, and whether or not they apply to your facility, make a plan to comply, while considering your facility's specific business needs.

With key decision makers present, start with the following discussion points. Document any conclusions that you reach, as well as approximate timelines, and what will be needed for implementation. *For further guidance on these topics, consider referencing [these CMS recommendations](#).*

Discussion points for reopening
(whether or not included in your state's guidelines):

COVID-19 TESTING

- ✓ How will COVID-19 testing work for staff, patients, and visitors?
- ✓ Will a checklist be used?
(For pre-screening, consider this [checklist provided by AMA](#))

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- ✓ What PPE will be needed in reopening?
- ✓ What resources are available to preorder PPE?
- ✓ Will any cleaning / reuse of PPE be needed?
(i.e. Washing cloth isolation gowns)

PATIENT VOLUME AND FACILITY LIMITATIONS

- ✓ Are resources, including ICU beds, available for the expected patient volume?
- ✓ What separation will be in place for COVID-19 and non COVID-19 related treatment?
- ✓ Consider: accessibility of facility resources, separate entrances, etc.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

- ✓ What supplemental cleaning will be needed?
- ✓ Do cleaning services have access to information and equipment?

STAFFING NEEDS / OTHER

- ✓ When will staff return?
- ✓ What is the plan of action to bring in more, or different, staff if needed?
- ✓ What is the plan for disseminating important information to staff
(new policies/ training)?
- ✓ What is the plan of action if issues or questions arise
(including legal implications)?

By answering these discussion questions, establishing timelines, and communicating the answers to all necessary parties, you'll be better prepared for the potential challenges of resuming your facility's operations. Navigating a reopen in the wake of COVID-19 might not be easy- but we are here to help you through it.

Section 3: Anticipating Future Needs

As Barton Associates has continued to work with clients reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic, one distinct takeaway is the variety of situations for which facilities have needed additional staff. Whether they see a backlog of patients coming in for postponed elective surgeries, or simply need someone to administer COVID-19 testing, we often find that their needs can be solved with proactive thinking and the right staffing partner.

We encourage you to consider the following possibilities, which may lead to a staffing shortage as you reopen:

- ✓ Backlog of elective procedures
- ✓ Census increase
- ✓ Increased staff need for COVID-19 testing
- ✓ Retirement
- ✓ Family obligations
- ✓ Health issues / provider burnout



HOW LOCUM TENENS CAN HELP

Locum tenens providers, or temporary, contracted employees, help to fill needs in facilities across the United States. Barton Associates specializes in staffing locum tenens providers of all types, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and CRNAs in all specialties.

From the moment you first speak with a Barton representative, we work to find fully qualified, licensed providers who are available to fill your job. If you're not sure when (or if) the provider will actually be needed, we can get someone pre-credentialed and ready to help, even before your opening is official.

INSIDER TIP!

With pre-credentialing, you'll have providers who are ready to work on backup, in case that they are needed on short notice later. This service is free, and managed by Barton's dedicated credentialing team.

HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED?

We will work quickly to find providers who can fill your need, and get them to your facility as fast as possible. With a database of almost 300,000 providers, this process can take as little as 24 hours.

INSIDER TIP!

Looking for another quick solution? [Barton Telehealth](#) allows patients in your facility to be seen remotely with a computer set up and high-speed internet connection.

Working with Barton Associates is as easy as 1-2-3. Ready to work us into your plan? To the right is a sample action plan for your facility in the following situation.



Situation: Due to the uncertainty of the times, it is becoming clear that some medical staff members may or may not return to your facility for it's reopening. You aren't sure whether you'll have a staffing shortage, but want to be prepared in any case.

SAMPLE STAFFING SHORTAGE ACTION PLAN

1. Establish communication with providers, to estimate if, and when they will return to work.
2. Reach out to a Barton Associates Account Manager, and discuss problem areas. *I.e. May be understaffed in OB/GYN and Cardiology for the first 2 months after open date.*
3. Explore potential solutions. *I.e. We'll work with Barton to open a search for an OB/GYN Physician and a Cardiologist.*

Once you've created an opening with Barton, the next step is to sit back and review the qualified candidates that we present you with. Pick the best fit, and we'll handle the details involved in getting your provider to work.

Can Barton Associates help your facility in it's reopening plan? We are happy to work with you on long or short notice. That said, there is no harm in reaching out early when you anticipate a need. Proactively considering your future staffing needs is smart, and it might make all the difference as you reopen your facility in the wake of COVID-19.

Have a question or want to connect? We're happy to help, and only a call or [click](#) away.