

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: JP Griffin Group

Trump Green Lights States to Reopen May 1—If They Want

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, President Donald Trump held a press conference to discuss guidelines for reopening the country by May 1.

In essence, Trump told governors they could begin reopening businesses by May 1, but that the decision will ultimately be theirs. He conceded that individual states are contending with the coronavirus pandemic on different scales, which may necessitate different actions.

During the press conference, Trump unveiled an 18-page document that includes more general guidance than specific instructions. The guidance had originally been given to governors during a phone call earlier in the day.

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“You’re going to call your own shots.”

- *President Trump to the governors*

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What’s next?

It’s unclear how this guidance will affect how state governors respond to this crisis, as many have staunchly opposed government micromanagement and said they will reopen when they see fit.

Health experts are concerned that abandoning current health guidance, like social distancing, will only worsen the situation right now. Many governors seem to agree with this assessment, having extended shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders into mid-to-

late May, weeks past Trump’s proposed May 1 reopening date.

Employer Takeaway

Employers should continue to follow all state and federal laws. Any decision to reopen businesses or relax current shutdown orders will be made on the state level, so be sure to monitor local guidance.

