



Charleston's COVID-19 Challenge

A Three Step Plan From Response to Recovery

THE PROBLEM

- COVID-19 is a highly contagious and deadly disease
- Uncontrolled spread leads to overwhelmed hospitals and unnecessary deaths
- There is currently no vaccine or effective treatment



THE CHALLENGE

- Protecting the lives and wellness of our citizens
- Keeping our hospitals from being overwhelmed
- Maintaining economic activity and core government services until a vaccine or treatment becomes available

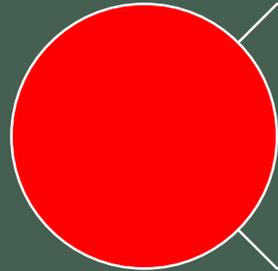
FOUNDATIONS OF THIS PLAN

- **Medical soundness:** This plan relies on the latest advice and information from the Centers for Disease Control, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Medical University of South Carolina and other area healthcare professionals.
- **Flexibility:** The plan is tailored to our needs here in Charleston, but flexible enough to work within the state's larger plans as they are announced.
- **Transparency:** This document, which will be updated as needed, will provide citizens with an understanding of what actions the city is taking and why.
- **Economic impact:** The plan will provide a safe path toward restarting economic activity within the city and delivering added resilience to our business community.

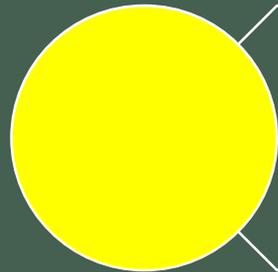
A THREE STEP PLAN FOR RECOVERY – GUIDING THOUGHTS

- “I want to assure every resident of this great state that your team, team South Carolina in all of its capacities, is engaged in working to get us through this crisis. And we will get through this. We will get through it by using our heads, being smart, by being deliberate, by staying calm and by using common sense and always by working together, and demonstrating courtesy and compassion towards each other.” – South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster
- “COVID-19 is different. It is a greater threat, and people are rightly concerned... If we each do our part, together, we can stop the spread.” – Dr. Linda Bell, state epidemiologist and director of DHEC’s Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

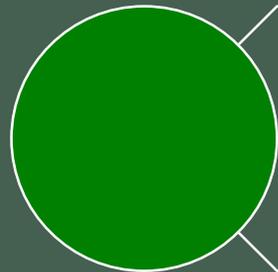
A THREE STEP PLAN FOR RECOVERY



Step I:
Shutdown to Stop the Spread



Step II:
Strategic Reopening to Prevent
Future Outbreaks



Step III:
Restoring our Economy with
Added Resilience

STEP I: SHUTDOWN TO STOP THE SPREAD – GUIDING THOUGHTS

- "Without a vaccine, we're using 14th-century methods, which is what quarantine is, or social distancing. That's really all we have at this point." – Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- "One death from this is one death too many. Every American has to make these changes, and I know they're really hard. We're all trying to protect each other, and we're all trying to adapt to this new reality that we're in right now." – Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator

STEP I: SHUTDOWN TO STOP THE SPREAD – ACTIONS



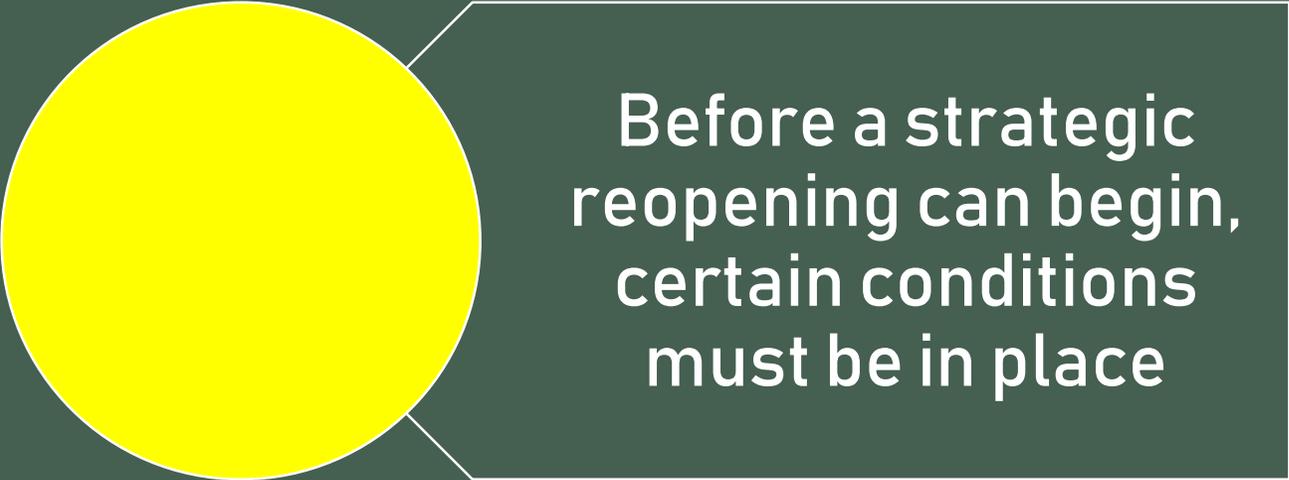
Without a vaccine or effective treatments, the only way to bring the virus under control is through careful hygiene and extreme social distancing.

- Stay at home order, with trips limited to the grocery store, pharmacy or other essential destinations
- Essential business conducted from home whenever possible
- Schools, parks, recreation facilities and non-essential businesses closed
- Crowd sizes limited, people required to space out
- Careful personal hygiene, including the use of masks and frequent hand washing

STEP II: STRATEGIC REOPENING – GUIDING THOUGHTS

- "We all look forward to the day when we can sit shoulder to shoulder on a crowded beach or share a meal inside a restaurant, but this will not happen on day one." – Dr. David Cole, President, Medical University of South Carolina
- "You've got to be realistic and you've got to understand that you don't make the timeline. The virus makes the timeline." – Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

STEP II: STRATEGIC REOPENING – REQUIRED CONDITIONS



Before a strategic reopening can begin, certain conditions must be in place

- Evidence that the rate of infection in our community is low
- Robust public health infrastructure with strong testing and contact tracing capabilities
- Sufficient medical infrastructure, personnel and equipment to handle a potential surge

STEP II: STRATEGIC REOPENING – ACTIONS



Once the virus has been suppressed, work to avoid a new outbreak that could force us back into shutdown.

- Widespread testing and robust contact tracing to identify those with the virus
- Prevent spread to the most vulnerable with additional protective measures
- Reopen most businesses and public spaces with continued social distancing and limits on crowd size
- Formation of a regional recovery task force with medical and business leaders providing guidance as we move forward
- Maintain elevated levels of personal hygiene

STEP III: RESTORING OUR ECONOMY WITH ADDED RESILIENCE – GUIDING THOUGHTS

- "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious gaps in our nation's pandemic preparedness. COVID-19 will not be the last public-health emergency to threaten American society. We must invest in the scientific, public-health, and medical infrastructure needed to prevent, detect, and respond to the next infectious disease threat." – Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner, US Food and Drug Administration
- "Our city's hospitality industry has lost 25,000 jobs in the last thirty days alone -- a terrible crisis for our business owners and citizens alike. That's why building a more resilient Charleston isn't just about flooding -- it's also about creating a diverse, broad-based economy that can withstand sudden shocks in any individual sector." – City of Charleston Director of Resilience Mark Wilbert

STEP III: RESTORING OUR ECONOMY WITH ADDED RESILIENCE – ACTIONS



After a vaccine or treatment is widely available, we can fully restore our economy with a more resilient future in mind.

- Business and government operations return to normal
- Citizens resume all normal activities, including travel and social gathering
- Governments maintain investments in public health infrastructure to protect against future pandemics
- Economic development efforts focus on multiple industries and sectors, delivering more resilience through greater diversity

RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control Latest COVID-19 Updates
 - Cases in the U.S.
 - Global map
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Latest COVID-19 Updates
 - Monitoring & Testing
- Latest COVID-19 Updates from the City of Charleston
 - COVID-19 resource list