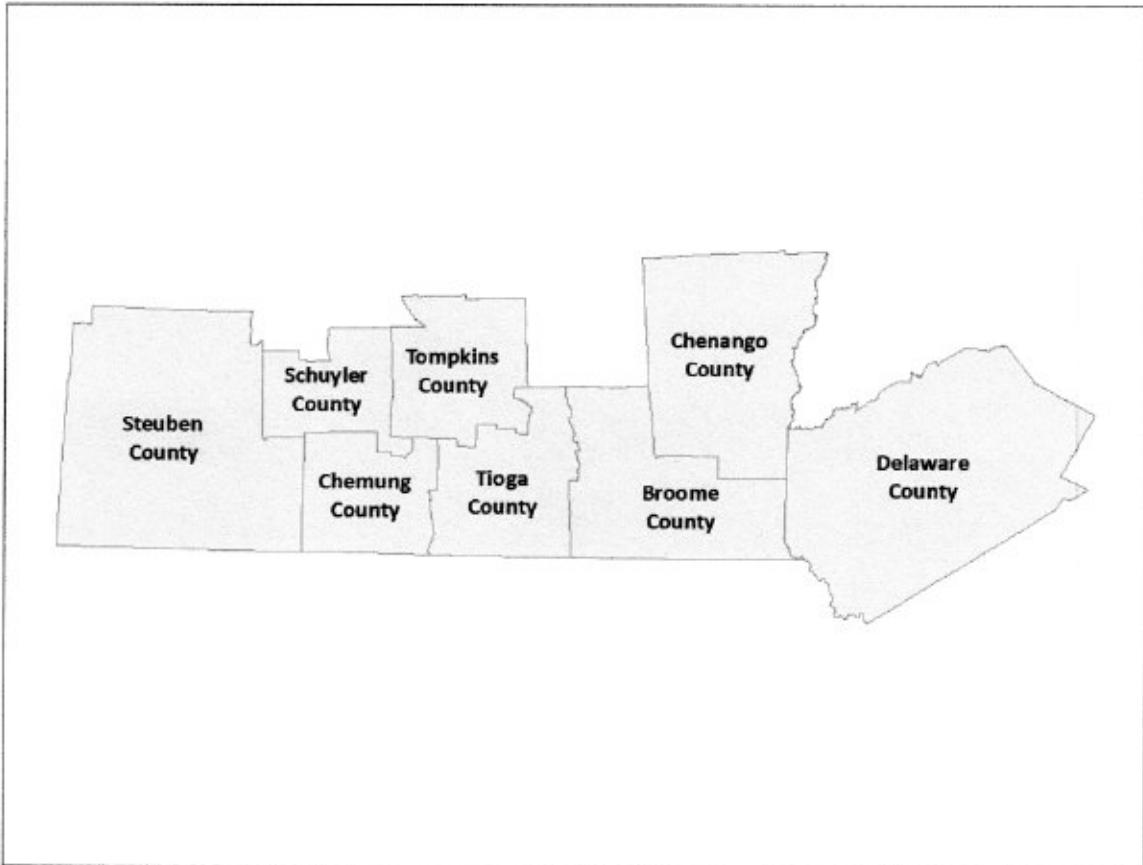


# Regional Guidelines for Re-opening of New York

## Southern Tier Region



**Broome County, Chemung County, Chenango County,  
Delaware County, Schuyler County, Steuben County,  
Tioga County, Tompkins County**

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## **Introduction**

The following is the Southern Tier Region's response to the regional guidelines set forth by the State of New York for reopening.

The Southern Tier Region has been defined as "a geographic subregion of the broader Upstate New York region of New York State, consisting of counties west of the Catskill Mountains in Delaware County and geographically situated along or very near the northern border of Pennsylvania. Definitions of the region vary widely, but generally encompass localities in counties surrounding the Binghamton and Elmira-Corning metropolitan areas. This region is bordered to the south by the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania and both these regions together are known as the Twin Tiers."

In a collaborative effort involving the 8 counties that comprise the region, the following outlines the region's plans to reopen government in accordance with guidelines set forth by the State of New York.

### **1. CDC Guidelines:**

The Southern Tier Region has met the recommendations of the CDC as stipulated by New York State Regional Guidelines for Re-Opening New York. Those guidelines indicate that *"regions must experience a 14-day decline in hospitalizations and deaths on a 3-day rolling average. Regions with few COVID cases cannot exceed 15 new total cases or 5 new deaths on a 3-day rolling average. A region must have fewer than two new COVID patients admitted per 100,000 residents per day."*

### **2. Priority Industries for Reopening:**

The Southern Tier Region has thoroughly reviewed the regional guidelines for reopening New York as they pertain to "priority industries for re-opening".

#### **Phase One**

- Construction
- Manufacturing and wholesale supply chain
- Select retail using curbside pickup only

#### **Phase Two**

- Professional services
- Finance and insurance
- Retail
- Administrative support
- Real estate and rental leasing

#### **Phase Three**

- Restaurants and food service
- Hotels and accommodations

#### **Phase Four**

- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Education

Southern Tier Regional Counties have also reviewed the standards indicating, essential businesses with inherent low risk of infection to customers and employees will be prioritized followed by additional businesses that are deemed less essential, as well as those that present a higher risk of infection spread.

Additionally, Southern Tier Regional Counties also recognize that no attractions or businesses that would draw a large number of visitors from outside the local area will be permitted at this time.

**3. Business Precautions:**

All businesses throughout the Southern Tier Region must have a plan in place to protect employees and consumers. The plan must also provide a safe physical work space for employees, as well as customers. All business plans should also include how physical work space is or has been made safer in order to lower the risk of infection in the business. All plans must be conspicuously posted in public view.

*The Southern Tier Region will await further guidance from New York State regarding minimum standards of enforcement that can be conducted by the County Health Department and/or local law enforcement.*

Business plans at minimal should include and/or address the following recommendations as outlined on the New York State website outlining the guidelines for reopening New York. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/new-york-forward/regional-guidelines-re-opening-new-york>

- Adjust workplace hours and shift design as necessary to reduce density in the workplace
- Enact social distancing protocols
- Restrict non-essential travel for employees
- Require all employees and customers to wear masks if in frequent contact with others or if a six-foot social distance cannot be maintained.
- Implement strict cleaning and sanitation standards
- Enact a continuous health screening process for individuals to enter the workplace, some businesses may want to enact temperature checks as an added precaution
- Continue tracing, tracking and reporting of cases
- Develop liability processes

The Southern Tier Region, through its multiple resources including Industrial Development Agencies, Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce and etc., will conduct a business outreach to educate and assist businesses with the planning process

**4. Building Health Care Capacity:**

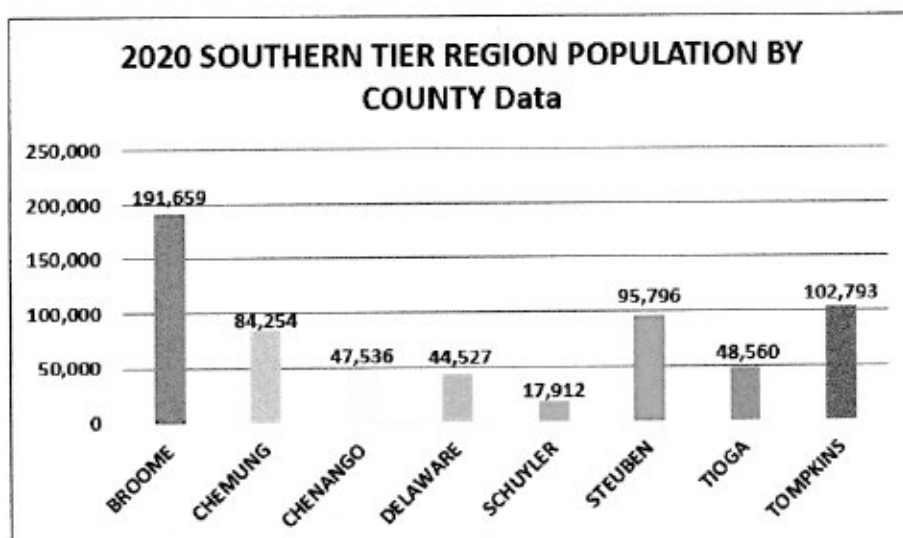
Regional Guidelines indicate “to maintain the phased reopening plan, each region must have at least 30 percent total hospital beds and ICU beds available after elective surgeries resume. This is coupled with the new requirement that hospitals have at least 90 days of PPE stockpiled.”

The Southern Tier Region currently meets or exceeds the above referenced 30% hospital and ICU bed availability reserved for possible COVID-19 related patients. This can be verified by the New York State Department of Health who receives facility detail reports on a daily basis via the Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) from all hospitals throughout the Southern Tier Region. *It should be noted that counties were not allowed to independently secure or utilize HERDS related statistical data.*

All hospitals located within the Southern Tier Region have a minimum of 90 day PPE on hand or immediately available from regional Emergency Operation Centers located within each county.

**5. Testing Regimen:**

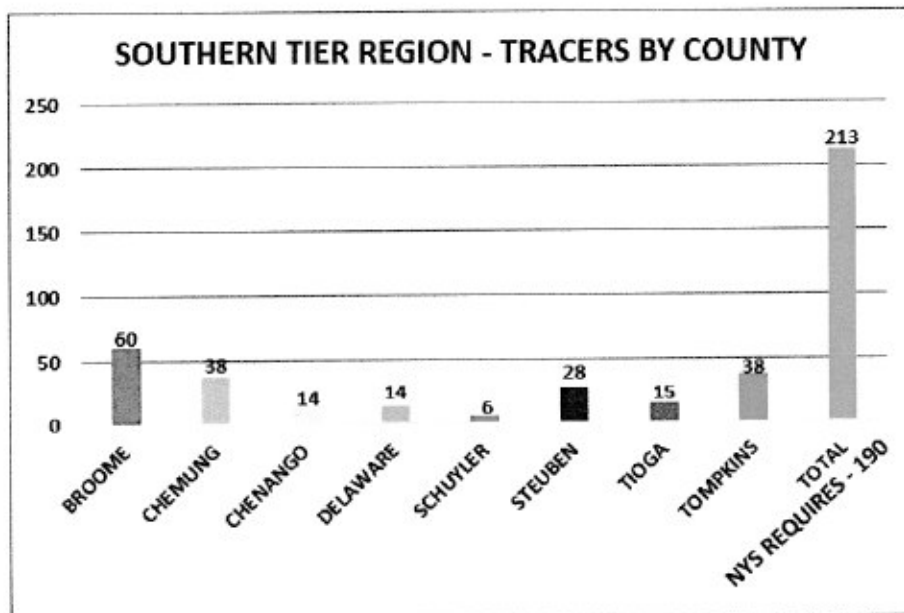
Southern Tier Regional counties will continue their current testing regimens that prioritize testing symptomatic persons and individuals who have come into contact with a known COVID-19 positive person, as well as testing for frontline and essential workers. Testing regimens will also include procedures set forth by each Southern Tier Regional county to facilitate the NYS requirement of 30 tests per 1000 residents per month. *See details below:*



The Southern Tier Region has a combined population of 633,037, which correlates into approximately 18,990 tests per-month at the current formula of 30 tests for every 1000 residents. Testing sites will be appropriately located throughout the Southern Tier Region in order to accommodate regional populations. In order to meet monthly testing quotas the Southern Tier Region will aggressively advertise testing dates and locations. The Southern Tier Region is also fortunate to have Binghamton University, Cornell University, Ithaca College, Cayuga Medical Center, Guthrie, Bassett Healthcare, Arnot Health, and St. James/URMC located within the region whereupon partnerships can be fostered to facilitate testing regimens, as well as the administering of the actual test. While as a region we must average approximately 650 tests per day, all counties are committed to increasing their existing capacity, as evidenced by regional tests of 954 individuals on May 3rd.

**6. Tracing System:**

The population of the Southern Tier Region dictates that a total of 190 contact tracers will be available. Southern Tier Regional Counties will have a total of approximately 213 tracers available on or before 05/15/2020. Depicted below is a graph showing a breakdown of contact tracers by county.



The Southern Tier Region will continue to work with the state partners as Bloomberg Philanthropies, John Hopkins University and the New York State Department of Health to develop plans to assist New York State with the requirement of a baseline count of 30 tracers for every 100,000 people.

**7. Isolation Facilities:**

The Southern Tier Region will have rooms available at locations throughout the region whereupon individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and are unable to self-isolate or quarantine can be housed. It should be noted that each respective county has indicated they will all have at least one location.

**8. Regional Coordination:**

The Southern Tier Region will coordinate and communicate efforts involving the re-opening of school (*which will be at the direction of the New York State Governor*). Information regarding transportation systems, testing and tracing will also be shared with surrounding regions. This information sharing can be accomplished through the coordination with the respective regional control rooms designated in each region throughout the state.

\*It should be noted that the Southern Tier Region is connected to more surrounding regions than any other region (6).

**9. Reimagining Tele-Medicine:**

Our Regional health partners had all developed virtual health portals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, many health systems relied on this technology for the diagnosing of minor issues and even for the screening of potential Covid-19 patients. Many health care systems see a value to using this environment for certain types of doctor visits, acknowledging that there will be some limitations to the systems.

**10. Reimagining Tele-Education:**

Our region will continue to work with education systems within the region to help develop distance learning to the extent that it is possible. School Districts were able to provide some level of instruction via remote learning during the pandemic, but there are many stumbling blocks to overcome to be able to provide broader usage in the future, such as internet availability, technology availability and the ability to provide specialized education. Higher Education has had a much easier time instituting basic learning courses virtually and should continue to do so when applicable. The Southern Tier Region will closely monitor New York State and the newly found relationship with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation