

Report: Atlantic City casinos could reopen by July 4

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 31 May 2020 18:25 -

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- New Jersey may allow casinos in Atlantic City to reopen with some restrictions by July 4, according to a report in [NJ.com, SILive.com's sister publication](#) .

Gov. Phil Murphy said during a radio interview [with Mike Lopez](#) on WOND on Sunday morning that it is still too early to give specific answers, but hopes that casinos can reopen for the Fourth of July holiday.

“But we are trying like heck to get toward, I hope, before the Fourth of July or at least by the Fourth of July ... that we’re in a position where we can say, you know what, subject to a lot of different parameters the casinos can be open again,” Murphy said in the radio interview.

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He didn’t say what restrictions casinos would face, but said the state is working with owners and operators, as well as workers and their representatives, about the reopening of casinos.

“The bad news is casinos sort of have the attributes that are hardest to deal with this virus. It’s indoors, no ventilation. You’re sedentary, you’re in close proximity. Having said that, they’re big footprints and we think there are successful steps that can be taken to address the challenges,” Murphy said in the interview.

According to [NJ.com](#) , Atlantic City casinos have been closed since March 16, but some have reopened for hotel guests. Gaming floors remain off-limits. The announcement comes as Murphy continues to lift near-lockdown conditions that have been in place since mid-March.

The state is in stage one of its multi-stage opening process. Murphy said he expects to announce the date of stage two on Monday.

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[NJ.com](#) previously reported that recreation venues, like Atlantic City casinos, will have a [variety of restrictions](#) like no eating on the casino floor, wearing a mask while gambling, and digital check-ins.

MGM Resorts, owner of the Borgata, has already released a [seven-point safety plan](#). The new rules include:

-- Daily temperature checks for all employees, and screening measures to determine whether they have COVID-19 symptoms.

-- “Strong encouragement” for any employees who think they may have been exposed to the virus to stay home.

-- Masks are to be worn by all employees, and all guests will be encouraged to wear them in public areas. Free masks will be handed out by the casino.

-- Plexiglass barriers will be installed in the casino and lobbies.

-- Medical personnel will be added to staff to respond in case a guest or employee tests positive for COVID-19.

-- Limits on how many people can share an elevator cab.

-- Digital check-ins for all visitors.

-- Digital menus and text notifications when tables are ready -- in order to eliminate lines.

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