

# Gradual plan towards a new normality in Mexico City

Mexico City, May 25, 2020

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On May 20, 2020, Mexico City's Government published on its official website the "Gradual Plan Towards a New Normality in Mexico City" (the "Gradual Plan")<sup>1</sup>, which establishes the guidelines to resume economic and social activities in Mexico City, focusing primarily on people's rights to health and economic well-being; the Gradual Plan is mandatory for the manufacturing and services sectors, as well as to public and private activities in Mexico City.

The Gradual Plan establishes an epidemiological stoplight system (red, orange, yellow, and green, from the highest to the lowest level of sanitary measures) which is divided into 8 (eight) different areas: (i) Economy; (ii) Education; (iii) Vulnerable groups; (iv) Governmental services; (v) Public spaces; (vi) Hospitalization and Intensive Care Units; (vii) Epidemiological follow-up and monitoring; and (viii) Confinement rules.

Some of the measures outlined in the Gradual Plan are:

- Application of staggered schedules of entrance and exit;
- Work protocols to guarantee public health safety;
- Home-office;
- 4x10 work schemes (4 days of on-site work, followed by 10 successive days of home-office) on rotating bases among the staff;
- Regionalization and staggering by turns; and
- Acceleration of a digital government.

The government of Mexico City must prepare and publish guidelines regarding (i) distancing and business continuity; (ii) public transportation; (iii) protection of transportation and public spaces; (iv) staggering of hours and days of work; (v) reporting of symptoms and positive cases; (vi) cinemas, theaters and religious events; (vii) understanding of the epidemiological stoplight; and (viii) access of social support for the vulnerable population. For certain types of businesses, specific signs shall be established in order to regulate the inflow and movement of people, which must be placed within the facilities.

The epidemiological stoplight will be published on a website where the level of confinement can be verified. As of today, Mexico City's stoplight is in the red color, which means the most restrictive sanitary measures are in place (e.g., only essential activities are allowed to operate).

The Gradual Plan establishes the criteria to advance from one color to another, according to the level of infections, which are:

- a. Stoplight in **red**: hospital occupation is greater than 65% and for two weeks there has been a stable increase in daily hospital admissions. The government of Mexico City expects this phase to last throughout June.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://covid19.cdmx.gob.mx/nuevanormalidad> last visit on May 22, 2020.

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At this stage, we highlight the following activities as allowed (please note, however, that you should review each activity in order to determine whether or not such activity is included in the complete Gradual Plan):

- i. Essential activities that have been continuing operating throughout the outbreak, plus construction, mining, manufacturing of transportation equipment, commercialization of bicycles, and beer production, including their supply chain.
  - ii. Home learning continues in place with respect to basic, upper secondary and higher education.
  - iii. Public parks are allowed to open at 30% of their capacity.
- b. Stoplight in **orange**: hospital occupation lower than 65% and for two weeks there has been a stable decrease in daily hospital admissions. The government of Mexico City expects this phase to last from mid-June to mid-August.

At this stage, we highlight the following activities as allowed (please note, however, that you should review each activity in order to determine whether or not such activity is included in the complete Gradual Plan):

- i. Essential and non-essential activities, with staggered working hours and days, and a 4x10 scheme.
    - a. Restaurants and hotels (30% capacity).
    - b. Religious services (30% capacity).
    - c. Cinemas and theaters (50% capacity).
    - d. Micro/small businesses (less than 30 employees).
  - ii. Sports events without public, prior testing of the athletes.
  - iii. Home learning continues in place with respect to basic, upper secondary and higher education.
  - iv. Public parks continue at 30% of their capacity.
  - v. End of temporary restrictions on use of cars ("*hoy no circula*").
- c. Stoplight in **yellow**: hospital occupation lower than 50% and for two weeks there has been a stable decrease in daily hospital admissions. The government of Mexico City expects f this phase to last from end of July until mid-September.

At this stage, we highlight the following activities as allowed (please note, however, that you should review each activity in order to determine whether or not such activity is included in the complete Gradual Plan):

- i. Essential and non-essential activities continue, with staggered working hours and days, and a 4x10 scheme.
- ii. Home learning continues in place with respect to basic, upper secondary, and higher education.

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- iii. Public parks at 60% of their capacity.
  - iv. Expansion of the bicycle lane.
- d. Stoplight in **green**: hospital occupation is lower than 50% and for a month there has been a stable decrease in daily hospital admissions. The government of Mexico City expects for this phase to run from end of August until mid-September.

At this stage, we highlight the following activities as allowed (please note, however, that you should review each activity in order to determine whether or not such activity is included in the complete Gradual Plan):

- i. Opening of bars, gyms, nightclubs, and/or clubs.
- ii. Basic, upper secondary and higher education, will return to normality as soon as allowed by educational and health authorities.
- iii. Social distancing and hygiene measures for containment to remain in place (*the new normality*).

Throughout the first 3 (three) levels of the epidemiological stoplight (described in subsections a, b and c above) the following measures shall remain in place:

- a. 1.5 meter (4.9 ft) distance between workers
- b. Mandatory 15-day quarantine for suspected or confirmed cases
- c. Signaling and communication on cleaning and hygiene practices
- d. Mandatory hand washing every 2 hours and installation of sanitizing stalls
- e. Home-office
- f. Perform continuous and specific cleaning on surfaces and common areas
- g. Guarantee the supply of washing and sanitizing supplies
- h. Temperature controls
- i. Masks and hands hygiene items
- j. Personal protection equipment

Finally, the Gradual Plan establishes that its implementation does not mean the end of the confinement, but rather, is a method to gradually relax the sanitary restrictions in activities, spaces, and populations, in order to reactivate the economy while at the same time minimizing infections.

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