



## Bedford County Commissioners' Office

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COUNTY OF BEDFORD  
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DEBRA K. BROWN  
*Chief Clerk*

May 6, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bedford County Commissioners participated in a conference call with representatives from the Governor's office today. The commissioners strongly urged the governor's representatives to change our status from red to yellow phase. The call lasted approximately 40 minutes. We advised those participating in the call that we were very disappointed that we were not included in the counties approved to move to the yellow phase last Friday, May 1, 2020.

We also advised the governor's office that there is growing frustration among our citizens and businesses that we were not being moved to phase yellow last Friday given the fact that we met Governor Wolf's criteria. We stated that our citizens have taken the necessary steps to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and are prepared to begin the process of re-opening now. We informed them that we have too many businesses that are unnecessarily being forced to choose between opening for business and dealing with the potential negative consequences or going bankrupt. We further indicated that restrictions should be implemented in a manner that would allow any business that can comply with the safety guidelines recommended by medical professionals be deemed eligible to open now.

The Board of commissioners also informed the representatives of how critical the need is for our citizens, (furloughed due to the COVID-19 virus,) to receive their unemployment checks. Many applied for benefits six weeks ago and just this week received confirmation that their claim has been received and reviewed. It is unacceptable that they must now wait another 4-6 weeks before they will receive a check. Others have not received any communication about their unemployment.

We are hopeful we will receive a positive response to our request by May 8, 2020. We feel we gave sufficient justification to change Bedford County from red to yellow phase immediately.