

Coronavirus cases in Pennsylvania are at **record highs**. On Nov. 13, the [Pennsylvania Department of Health reported](#) that there were **5,531 additional positive cases of COVID-19**, bringing the statewide total to **254,387**. It is the **fourth consecutive day** the state has reported a record number of cases.

*Play Pennsylvania* asked the **PA Department of Health** if the rising numbers meant a return to the color-coded phases and possible temporary closures for **casinos in Pennsylvania**.

A representative responded:

“There is no plan at this time to return to the red, yellow, green mitigation steps and stay-at-home order that occurred in the spring.”

Some tips to slow the spread

The PA Department of Health reiterated that they were **very concerned** with the increase in cases.

“We currently have protections in place, like wearing a mask and limits on large gatherings. Pennsylvanians can stop the spread. It is all of our responsibility to do the right thing. These are things that we can continue to do to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Teleworking
- Isolating or quarantining if you test positive or have exposure to someone who has
- Businesses limiting capacity to 50 percent

More restrictions for Philadelphia?

Of the record number of cases reported on Friday, **1,158 were from Philadelphia**. Mayor **Jim Kenney**'s office did not provide any indication of what their “changes in restrictions” might be, and said they are still being finalized. Health Commissioner **Dr. Thomas Farley** earlier this week [said all restrictions are being considered](#), even a complete lockdown, according to *Yahoo! News*.

**Rivers Casino Philadelphia** is currently the **only casino** located within the city limits. **Live! Casino Philadelphia** is expected to open in early 2021.

**Rivers Philadelphia** closed in mid-March and reopened on **July 17**. It experienced the longest closure of all twelve casinos in the Commonwealth.

We must do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Philadelphia. Specific details are still being finalized, but we plan to announce changes to restrictions on Monday, November 16. <https://t.co/fgAPsfbU3P>

— Jim #MaskUpPHL Kenney (@PhillyMayor) [November 13, 2020](#)

Health and safety protocols at PA casinos

Before you visit a casino in Pennsylvania there are few things you should know. Your next visit will look **different** than your previous pre-coronavirus closure casino excursion. Per the **Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board**, all casinos in the state must follow [COVID-19 Casino Reopening Protocols](#), which details the **minimum safety and health-related requirements** that are [mandatory before reopening](#).

Key points to remember are:

- Casinos can reopen at 50% capacity
- Employees and guests must wear **masks**.
- Markings on the floor to promote **social distancing**.
- Enhanced **cleaning** throughout the facility.

Eating, drinking smoking at PA casinos

In addition to the increased health and safety measures, some staples of casino visits have been put on a **temporary pause**.

**Alcohol** can only be served when food is purchase. [Drink service on the casino floor](#) is

**prohibited.**

These new rules went into effect well before the November record-breaking numbers. Under guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, there is currently **no smoking** in Pennsylvania casinos either (effective July 3).

**Gov. Tom Wolf** and Health Secretary **Dr. Rachel Levine** signed orders that mandated restaurants can't serve alcohol for on-site consumption past 11 p.m. (effective Sept 21).

Hours of PA casinos

Casinos in Pennsylvania started to [close in mid-March to slow the spread of coronavirus](#). They were closed for over 100 days before the first few started welcoming back guests in June.

However, not all returned to around-the-clock operations.

**Casinos in PA open 24 hours:**

- Parx
- Presque Isle
- Rivers Casino Philadelphia
- Rivers Casino Pittsburgh (starting Nov. 16)
- Mount Airy Casino
- Wind Creek Casino
- Mohegan Sun Pocono
- Harrah's Philadelphia

Hours of other casinos in PA

**The Meadows:**

- Sunday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4 a.m.
- Friday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 a.m.

**Valley Forge Casino :**

- Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3 a.m. Open 24 hours 10:00 a.m. Friday thru 3:00 a.m. Monday.

**Hollywood Casino:**

- Closed daily from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for deep cleaning.

**Lady Luck Nemacolin:**

- Open 24 hours for slot gaming
- **Table Games hours-**  
Monday through Friday: 3 p.m. – 12 a.m.  
Saturday and Sunday: 2 p.m. – 12 a.m.

1% of casino employees test positive

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control released figures last week that showed **less than 1% of casinos employees tested positive** for COVID-19 since the twelve brick-and-mortar locations opened in June. Rivers Pittsburgh had 28 cases and Parx had 25. A full breakdown [can be found here](#).

Online casinos in PA

If you are 21+ and physically located in Pennsylvania, you don't even have to leave your home to play. There are now 11 [online casinos in Pennsylvania](#). Things got even more "livelier" this week as **Caesars** and **FanDuel** [launched online live dealer games](#).

*Lead image credit: AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar*

The post [Coronavirus Won't Close PA Casinos, But Tighter Restrictions May Roll In Soon](#) appeared first on [Play Pennsylvania](#).

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