

To all Village Residents and Businesses,

As most of you are aware by now, our region, as of Friday, moved to Phase 2 of reopening. This means that small businesses have the right to open their doors finally. Required parameters and guidelines can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov/phase-two-industries> and <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/OfficesSummaryGuidelines.pdf>. As of Sunday evening, this also includes dentist offices.

It has been my personal opinion that outdoor seating should be included in Phase 2, but unfortunately that did not happen. I want to be perfectly clear that my personal Facebook post was my opinion and not a decision made by the board nor an official Village of Watkins Glen policy. My motivation, like many upstate leaders, was to encourage the planned Phase 2 opening on Friday as there were indications on Thursday night that this would be delayed.

I would ask all businesses to refrain from moving forward with outdoor seating at this time. The last thing I would want to happen is for us to take a step back. Please follow the Phase 2 guidelines set by the state to not only protect your business, but your customers as well.

I would like to personally thank all the businesses for their cooperation and continued compliance during these difficult and ever-changing times. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we stand with you and your desire for our Village to be reopened and back to normal as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Luke Leszyk
Mayor
Village of Watkins Glen