

Rapid City Business Re-Opening Plan

- ▶ Terminology – we do not have a:
 - ▶ Retail closure
 - ▶ Shut-down
 - ▶ Lock-down
 - ▶ Stay-at-home order
- ▶ We have not defined “essential” or “non-essential” businesses.
- ▶ We have a narrowly-focused ordinance, affecting 8% of Rapid City Business and 11% of its employees.
 - ▶ Based on a point-in-time analysis of information available on March 20th.

Business Re-Opening Plan

The Situation

- ▶ Early March 2020
 - ▶ Coronavirus activity in China, Italy, Spain, Washington State
 - ▶ Early predictive models indicate widespread infection, illness, death
 - ▶ Social distancing is introduced
 - ▶ The “curve” is introduced
- ▶ The Experts, CDC, WHO:
 - ▶ 30% - 60% of population infected
 - ▶ 80% mild symptoms, 20% hospitalization rate, 5% ICU rate
 - ▶ Immediate testing and PPE supply shortage noted
 - ▶ Lack of hospital capacity is a credible threat

Business Re-Opening Plan

Assessment and Response

- ▶ Early March 2020
 - ▶ New strain of virus - viral behavior is unknown
 - ▶ Early State response:
 - ▶ Using a variety of models
 - ▶ No closures indicated
- ▶ Early City Response: Authority to act under state law.
 - ▶ Many municipalities lacking authority or confidence to act under circumstances
 - ▶ Decision for Rapid City to act, following CDC guidelines.
 - ▶ City ordinance 6412: Effective March 28th

Business Re-Opening Plan

The Situation Today:

- ▶ U.S. data now widely available
- ▶ Hospitalization rate 25% of original prediction
- ▶ Smithfield Plant in Sioux Falls serves as an example
- ▶ Slow onset of disease in Western South Dakota
- ▶ Major employers are Monument Health, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Black Hills Energy
- ▶ All have been afforded time to prepare for the spread of Coronavirus

Business Re-Opening Plan



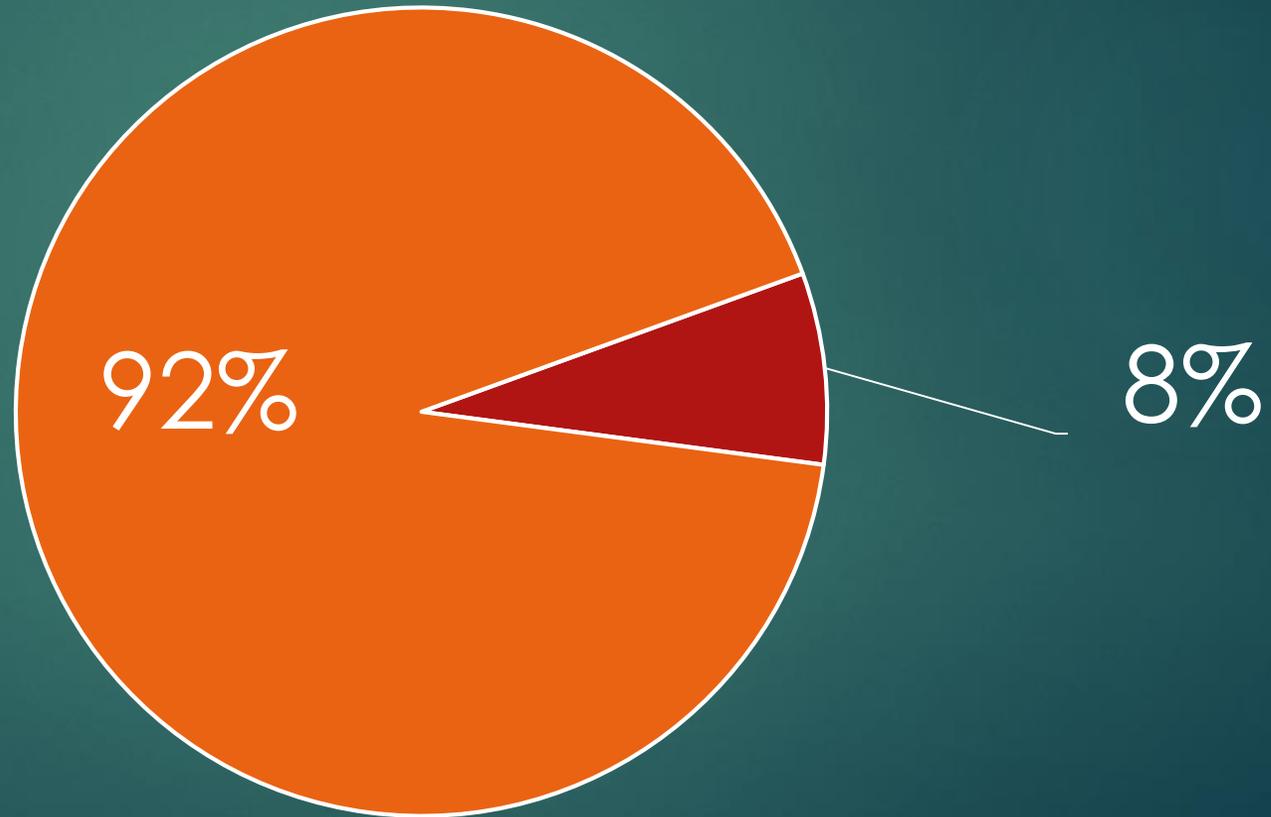
- ▶ Community has had time to adjust to social distancing standards
- ▶ Medical community and our emergency preparation has benefitted from the additional time afforded to us.

Then and Now

March 27, 2020	April 20, 2020
Analysis of International Data	Analysis of US data, including SD data
80% mild symptoms 20% hospitalization rate 5% ICU hospitalization rate	80% mild symptoms (20% of those, no symptoms) 4.5% hospitalization rate 5% ICU hospitalization rate
The curve – hospitals overrun with cases	The curve – hospital capacity appears safe
	More accurate predictive modeling
	Ability to measure effectiveness of mitigation tactics
	March 27 data no longer valid
	Evidence of community willingness to distance
	Rapidly changing situation calls for flexible plan

Scope of Rapid City's "Closure"

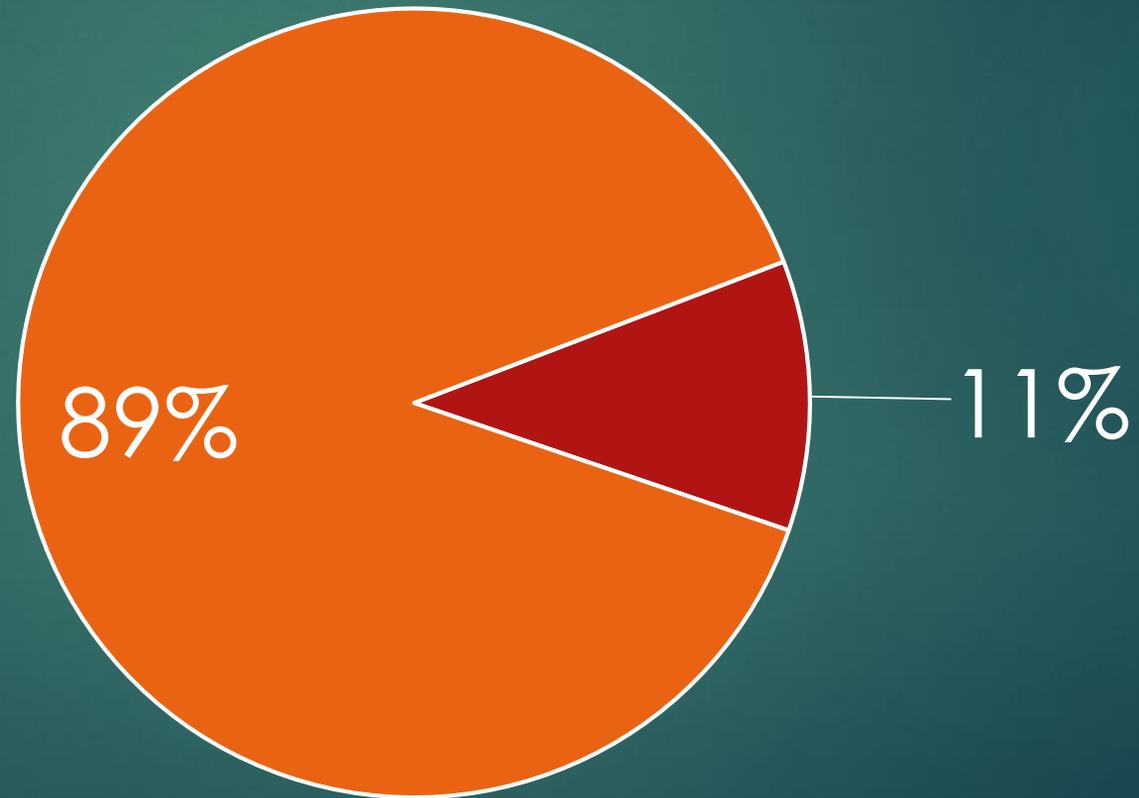
All Rapid City Businesses



■ Affected Businesses ■ Other Businesses

Scope of Rapid City's "Closure"

All Rapid City Employees



■ Affected Employees ■ All other Employees

COVID-19 Testing

- ▶ On average, 1% of county populations are being tested.
- ▶ Pennington County = .3%
- ▶ Tests follow viral activity, symptoms
- ▶ Widespread testing is inappropriate under circumstances
- ▶ Widespread testing is not possible under circumstances
- ▶ Hospitalizations regionally support low viral activity

Modifications are Needed to City Ordinance 6412

- ▶ To ensure uniform social distancing implementation throughout the community.
- ▶ To help reduce risk in light of restricted businesses re-opening.
- ▶ Ultimately to protect access to life-saving hospital resources.
- ▶ The curve is flat today.
 - ▶ It is not flat, solely because of the 8% of businesses affected by the ordinance.
 - ▶ It is flat for a variety of reasons, including our community response to the threat of COVID-19.
 - ▶ The next logical step, is to balance the threat of the virus, with the threat created by a faltering economy

Modifications are Needed to City Ordinance 6412

- ▶ Food security is decreasing among the low income population.
 - ▶ Demand for food assistance is increasing.
- ▶ Food supply to the local non-profit distributors is at risk of decreasing.
- ▶ Major food production facility shut-downs nationwide, affect national food supply.
- ▶ Our duty is to avoid a collision of the demand increase and the food supply decrease.
- ▶ Where possible, those out of work, should return to work to become self-sufficient again.

Proposed new Restrictions

- ▶ A minimum six-foot space exists between tables, chairs, and barstools.
- ▶ Capacity limits in restaurants, bars and casinos to 10 people, or 1 customer for every 125 square feet.
- ▶ Require handwashing at regular intervals for restaurant and bar employees.
- ▶ Food service employees must be masked.
- ▶ Video lottery machines cleaned and disinfected between each customer
- ▶ Customer seats in businesses and theaters marked as “not available due to social distancing guidelines”

Proposed new Restrictions



- ▶ Approved public health announcements, once hourly in retail stores larger than 50,000 square feet in size.
- ▶ Posting of regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule, specific to each business.
- ▶ Hand sanitizer locations throughout retail and grocery stores, readily available for public use.
- ▶ Require social distance spacing while waiting for service or entry into business.

Proposed new Restrictions

- ▶ Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting requirements for motel and hotel rooms.
- ▶ Exercise equipment and/or mats cleaned and disinfected between each customer.
- ▶ Seating for large gatherings reduced to comply with a six foot minimum distance between attendees.
- ▶ Clearly marked one-way shopping aisles in grocery and retail stores.
- ▶ Limit number of customers in grocery, retail, recreation and fitness businesses based on available square footage. One customer for every 200 square feet.
- ▶ Plexiglas divider between cashier and customer, where physically possible, in retail and grocery businesses.

Proposed new Restrictions

- ▶ Hair and nail salons, barber shop employees to be masked during customer contact times. Customer seating must be six feet apart.
- ▶ Public social gatherings limited to 10 people.
- ▶ Encourage public masking whenever possible.
- ▶ Encourage daily employee screening.
- ▶ Ongoing strict social distancing policies to protect the elderly and those most at-risk.

Odds and Ends

- ▶ City facilities to be handled separately
- ▶ None of the new regulations take the place of safe practices – social distancing
- ▶ High-risk groups should stay home, take extra precautions

Enforcement / Education

- ▶ Rapid City Code Enforcement will lead effort
 - ▶ Emphasis on education
 - ▶ Emphasis on voluntary compliance

Future Risk Mitigation

- ▶ The ordinance must be as fluid as the problem being addressed
- ▶ Unconventional for a city ordinance / government action
- ▶ These are unconventional times.

Community Outreach

- ▶ Send comments to mayorsoffice@rcgov.org
- ▶ Or, 394-4110
- ▶ Submit message for public comment for public meetings
 - ▶ www.rcgov.org/covid

Questions?