



# FAQs Related to Phased Reopening of Gambling Establishments

With the release of the [Governor's directive](#) regarding the phased reopening of Montana, we would like to provide some information to licensees as they plan for the reopening of their businesses. Please see the FAQs below:

**Q. When can licensed locations re-open?**

A. Unless further restricted by the local jurisdiction, restaurants, bars, breweries, distilleries, and casinos can open on Monday, May 4th if all state and local guidelines are followed.

**Q. The guidelines indicate that active video gambling machines must be 7-feet apart (measured from center of one active VGM to the center of another active VGM). Can I move my machines around to comply?**

A. Yes, you may move your machines, but they must remain on your licensed premises. For compliance with our gambling rules, each machine must be placed in such a manner that a minor who tries to play a machine is immediately observed by the licensee or the licensee's employees and that public access to VGM's, to the greatest extent possible, is limited to persons over the age of 18.

**Q. If I move my video gambling machines, do I need to submit any forms or provide notification to the division?**

A. No, notification is not necessary. Please see the question above regarding restrictions on machine placement.

**Q. If I do not turn on all my machines to comply with the 7-foot spacing, do I need to submit a letter of withdrawal for the inactive machines?**

A. No, letters of withdrawal are not required in this situation unless you do not plan to re-permit the machine or if you remove the machine from your premises.

**Q. Do I need to submit meter readings for the machines that I do not turn on?**

A. Yes, as of May 4th, meter readings must be submitted for all permitted machines on the agreed schedule. This is daily for Tier 1 reporting and weekly or bi-weekly for Tier 2 reporting.

**Q. Will license and permit renewals be impacted by the phased reopening?**

A. No, as of now, the division plans to handle renewals in the same manner as previous fiscal years. Licensees will receive their renewal form in May, and it must be submitted to the division by the end of June. All licenses and permits expire on June 30, 2020.

**Q. If I don't have all machines turned on during the phased reopening, do I have to renew the permit for the video gambling machines that are inactive?**

A. No. All VGM permits expire on June 30, 2020, and we will allow you to wait to re-permit a machine until you are ready to turn it on. We will allow unpermitted machines to remain on your premises during the phased reopening, but they must remain inactive until the permit application is completed, fee is paid, and the updated license is posted. Inspectors and investigators doing inspections will compare the active machines with the posted gambling operator license.

**Q. If I decide not to re-permit a machine in my location, what should I do?**

A. You must submit a letter of withdrawal if the machine is currently permitted. If it not currently permitted, you must contact the division and provide final meter readings from the machine.