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L.A. County's next goal is Fourth of July
Any comprehensive reopening to aid the strangling economy will depend on reduced cases of virus.

By Colleen Shalby
and Sarah Panahi

Los Angeles County officials’ newest goal is to more fully reopen the economy by July 4, a goal that appeared elusive just weeks ago.

The mission is to safely reopen retail businesses, offices, entertainment venues and ballparks for a much-anticipated July 4 opening.

“If we're able to control this virus moving forward, we will be opening up much more about what the public can do,” said Dr. Mark Ghaly, county health officer. “This will be a much smaller package than we were thinking about before.”

Ghaly said that opening for a Fourth of July celebration is “a very specific goal” for the county, and the fact that July 4 is earlier than is usually the case has impacted the calculation.

Ghaly said he and his team have been meeting weekly with the federal Center for Disease Control to come up with a plan. The goal is to safely reintroduce people to the Independence Day festivities.

One of the key issues is the control of community transmission of the virus, which is highly contagious and can spread across borders.

Ghaly said that a key part of getting to this goal is making sure that the county can maintain its low level of community transmission.

He said that the county has been averaging about 1,000 new cases per day, which is a very low rate.

The county’s goal is to maintain that rate for at least two weeks in a row, which would give the county time to bring the rate down even further.

Ghaly said that the county is working closely with the state and federal governments to come up with a plan that will allow for the safe reopening of the economy.

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Daily case numbers in L.A. County have surged, leading to new virus restrictions. (Kazan)