

# **COVID-19: Time to Lift Restrictions?**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

**By now, every person on the planet is aware of the COVID-19 virus, the risks associated with the disease, and of the procedures necessary to curb its transmission. This being the case, is it time for government to lift restrictions? The answer is yes. Invested with the knowledge about the COVID-19 virus, it is now time to let the individual, and not the government, decide when and where to shop, socialize, and consume. It is now time to let the individual, and not the government, decide whether it is worth the risk to attend public events, use public conveyances, or visit public places. Except in cases in which someone has been adjudicated of having committed a crime, in no way should government officials be allowed to make personal decisions on the individual's behalf. How we conduct our lives, especially how and where we choose to spend our money, is a matter of personal choice, not public edict. Besides being contrary to the principles upon which the nation is founded, the sweeping and invasive measures such as those currently in place – measures that have shut down entire industries, thrown millions of people out of work, have disrupted the delivery of urgently needed medical care for patients with serious and life-threatening medical conditions, and have inflicted unprecedented damage to the economy from the local to international level WITHOUT HAVING ERADICATED THE VIRUS – inherently do more harm than good and put all of us, both individually and collectively as a society, at risk. The current policy is unsustainable. If allowed to**

continue, the economy could sustain so much damage that it may not be able to recover. This will have dire consequences for all of us. So, we have two choices: either keep the restrictions in place and thereby risk the extinction of the economy or lift the restrictions now, resuscitate and salvage the economy, adjust as best we can to the presence of the COVID-19 virus while the pharmaceutical industry develops a cure (hopefully soon) and go on with our lives. This is a difficult and perhaps even unprecedented decision for us to make. Ultimately, the option we choose, as communicated to our elected officials, is entirely ours.

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