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<th>TOWN/CITY</th>
<th>JOB TITLE</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Please think carefully about how we can keep the small (micro really) businesses that guides are, alive until we might resume in 2021. At this point spring is a loss summer is looking likely to be a loss at this point and the fall season is far from certain. The first wave of business assistance for the most part missed guides completely for a variety of reasons. Unemployment has not been able to accommodate them either. Which leaves a pretty significant void as we approach the coming winter. I hope that the committee reaches out to the outdoor recreation sector for ideas and input. Thanks, Don</td>
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<td>Greenville</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>While I understand the intent of the 14 day quarantine, I find that continuing a quarantine into July and beyond is unreasonable &amp; unreasonably damaging to the economy to lodging establishments and the restaurants that we direct guests to. We are finding that potential visitors from all New England states are reluctant to make reservations due to the quarantine requirements. Ask yourself, “Who would possibly want to go to a lodging establishment and then have to shelter in place??” This is an unreasonable expectation considering they would be no more or less infected than the Mainers that are permitted to freely travel to our rural areas. Locals alone cannot sustain restaurants in the rural areas. Their livelihood is dependent on a robust tourist economy. Rural lodging establishments have no problem adhering to the protocols set forth to keep guests &amp; workers safe. In the Moosehead Lake area, social distancing is the norm. Our particular establishment offers 10 private buildings which allow the ultimate in isolation &amp; social distancing. There is no acceptable reason that we should not be permitted to accept guests from out of state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Let us open now. We are not children. Let us take care of ourselves. If people don’t feel safe, they will stay home. If people have conditions that put them in danger, they will either stay home or make their own choices as adults to go out to eat, go camping or stay in a hotel. If a business owner doesn’t feel they should open, they can stay closed. WE should make the choices, NOT the government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waldoboro</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Hello Thanks for asking us to help with ideas. I believe strongly that if we do not have customers that we will not have business. It’s a pretty simple concept. Please please please tell the Maine news stations to stop with the Covid 19 press releases daily. How about once a week. Fear is preventing people from leaving their homes therefore they will not go shopping or out to eat. If we are depending on Maine people to visit our businesses and spend money we must stop this daily news brief. It is paralyzing people and they are so afraid to do anything. If we do not have any tourism because of the two week quarantine then we must stop scaring Maine people. This is our only hope to stabilize our small maine businesses. Fear is our enemy. Please help Maine people to feel confident leaving their home! Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion.</td>
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Maine tourism advertising budgets are going unspent. Now is the time for spending some of the unused tourism dollars to build a staycation business.

Explore Maine's Hidden Treasures Campaign.

Key programs of Maine Office of Tourism include:

- An integrated marketing and PR campaign that leverages the core natural and cultural assets of Maine to attract visitors to the state. This benefits Maine's citizens and travel industry by protecting and creating jobs, boosting the state economy, and supporting amenities that both visitors and residents enjoy.
- Comprehensive annual research tracking visitation, tourism expenditures and Maine visitor profiles.
- Regional and organizational grants to support the growth of the tourism industry in Maine.
- Industry communications and meetings to inform and educate Maine businesses regarding MOT activities, marketing program results, tourism industry trends and industry best practices.
- Destination development training and technical support to promote tourism readiness in rural Maine.
- Partnerships with the Maine Tourism Association, Cruise Maine, the Maine Motorcoach Network, and other groups to provide and manage visitor services.

Apply immediately for emergency JUMP START social media and radio (television too depending on budget) campaign for the HIDDEN TREASURES OF MAINE campaign to wake up Maine's economy now.

Roving reporters canvas Maine and produce Facebook live videos of all the newly reopened Maine businesses. Show off the best dishes of the restaurants. Interview the customers, owners wait staff. Get the word our adventures await! This video and audio find its way on radio and tv. Go into local shops and tell their stories of the treasures they have to offer. Go to the Maine resorts and find all the fun spots. Get out on the golf courses. Try out the sports cars and hot SUVs at the dealerships and visit the spas, and more, more, more. All live streaming all day every day!

Estimated costs to do all this.

Statewide $200,000.
Test run of three weeks in the hottest locations $50,000.
Labor three talented people with a good personality and stage presence and each person has a partner with a smart phone.

Will be important to strategically pick out businesses that can benefit the most from this exposure to start with. They need Primary obstacle to retail and hospitality recovery in Maine:

14 day in-state quarantine for out-of-staters. Potential visitors are confused by the guideline. How can it be enforced? Suggest 14 day at-home quarantine before visiting Maine, then practice safe pandemic behaviors i.e. masks, hand-cleaning, social-distancing, once here. Business owners be vigilant about same standards. Common sense should prevail.

Hello all,

As board president of Maine Outdoor Brands, an alliance of more than 100 outdoor product/experience companies across the state, and as a partner in a marketing firm that works with dozens of Maine companies, I would be happy to lend my perspective to the efforts of the hospitality, tourism and retail subcommittee. We have a daunting task ahead of us in getting Maine back on track and I'm happy to help any way I can. Thank you.

Jim

I would suggest following states that have opened and are less restrictive. Data shows no increase in Covid cases in these states. The curve is flattened. Remove the 14 quarantine.

Like to see as much promotion as possible towards "shop locally". Include message: if your group is doing fundraising please contact local businesses. Help support Maine businesses as they have been supporting communities.
Please consider occupancy rules by number of square feet per person, instead of a just 5 customers inside any business under 7500 square feet. That's a big range and 5 customers could be a lot for a small store, but not enough to sustain a larger store. Our store has two floors and five customers between two floors leaves an overabundance of circulation space. Something like 150sq ft per customer would allow a more reasonable amount of customers and still make it easy to maintain social distancing.

Parsonsfield, Maine Operations leader
I've been operational now for 30 years. My suggestion is for all the state portals to come up with an encouraging phrase soon to bring tourism back to Maine. There are many catch words and phrases to insure travelers of safety concerns. Quarantining signs at the border are not a welcoming attraction. We need to find better messaging! A large portion of our state economy is comprised of tourism and many many jobs are connected to the hospitality industry. I think that if a study was done, which should be, 65% of our workforce is tied to Tourism. We need to open fully with conditions ASAP.

Northeast Harbor owner
Lift the 14 day Quarantine!
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Northeast Harbor Art Gallery Owner/Artist
I read the new testing proposal and have problems with it because it is so difficult to obtain tests. Almost impossible for most! I believe that we should ask visitors to quarantine for 3-5 days and to check for symptoms. We need to offer tests if they do exhibit symptoms. The Gov't needs to step up here on testing! Wearing masks in retail establishments should be required for all until this threat passes. Common sense needs to prevail in all situations, with a balance between the economy and our health. We can have a summer season if we follow some simple guidelines. If we do not let out of staters come to Maine this summer I fear the consequences. Everyone wants to stay healthy, everyone wants a summer, it's not that hard! Gail Cleveland p.s. I also own an art gallery in FL which I run in the winter season. I was able to stay open by appointment through out this spring. I was very careful, my customers were careful. It can be done!

Northeast Harbor Owner
The country is opening up, and we have all had months of learning how to adapt to the virus and to protect ourselves and others around us. Masks must be mandated in Maine, where our numbers have been kept low. "NO Shirt, No shoes, No Mask, No Service". Once people realize that they can't get what they want without being considerate of other people and donning a mask, it will become more accepted to do this by those who feel they don't need to. Random checks will help also re: temperature, and health history. In areas where there will be congested or possibly congestion inside, temperature checks can be administered with the forehead scanning devices.

Arundel Business Manager
We need to get Restaurants and Lodging reopened as soon as possible. The vast majority of COVID cases are nursing home related and should not prosecute and jeopardize other businesses from surviving this provided they implement necessary precautions such as social distancing and cleaning.

Mount Desert Employee
To stabilize the economy, Maine needs to eliminate the 14 day quarantine on out of state travelers and the potential mandatory testing in lieu of the quarantine. In it's place, Maine needs to educate on face coverings, social distancing, recognizing symptoms of Covid 19 and what to do if symptoms occur AND randomly test out of state travelers at specific checkpoints, such as Kittery and Thompson’s Island (bridge coming onto Mount Desert Island).

Saco Logistics Director
When we had to cancel our Spring 2020 NEM show, 300+ exhibitors lost their booth fees. Unfortunately, based on the realities of upfront costs of producing the show, business operating costs already incurred, and lack of insurance/government funding, that option was not possible, without our company going out of business. For the 300 companies that lost their booth fees (ranging from $1,000 - $1,500 in most cases), the loss for them was huge. The vast majority of them are small businesses, artisans. To lose the opportunity to find new wholesale accounts, on top of losing their booth fees, is devastating to them. This show has a 36 year history of supporting New England's artisans, small businesses and the retail industry. It has a multi-million dollar impact every year. We are hoping for the government’s assistance in refunding all exhibitors their booth fees, or at the very least, partial refunds. We also re: temperature, and health history. In areas where there will be congested or possibly congestion inside, temperature checks can be administered with the forehead scanning devices.

Scarborough
Please change the quarantine restriction to be that those that attest to having quarantined at home for 14 days prior to their trip may come and vacation in Maine this summer. Tourism is suffering and will be devastated due to the current restrictions. Our vacation rental business generates 80% of it’s revenue for the year between July and August with 87% of our guest coming from out of state. I employ 3 full time people in addition to myself and contract with numerous cleaners, handypeople, etc throughout the summer. Please help us while still keeping people safe and do what NH is doing. Thank you!

Brunswick
The 14 day quarantine when no symptoms is a hardship on visiting - family, vacation or business. With testing it seems this could be shortened and falls in line with the suggested CDC questions before going to work - example - along with the questions on do you have a temperature, symptoms and have you had exposures add the question have you tested positive in the past 2 days? Maybe the option is to quarantine 2 day and test on the third.

I believe science is needed to keep us safe and it also is more practical in protecting our community and guests. Having visitors have a self checklist and a test seems more practical.
I offer a suggestion to improve reception of implementation of orders/changes. Earlier communication and include stakeholders consulted in the change.

The change for Southern Maine restaurants to not allow indoor seating was a 4 day notice. I agree with the science behind the decision but would have been better 2 weeks earlier as a precaution to notify the concerned parties. Even if a day earlier it was announced for those counties that there was a spike and would need to be delayed so it was more clear why.

A lot of the notices are orders from the Governor. It would carry more weight if including something to the effect of with consultation with business leader, community leaders and medical leaders. It will convey a well vetted action with different perspectives considered.

Maine counties are huge in comparison to counties with other states. Modern math, mapping and medicine allow better analytics and creating more accurate action for smaller areas. The state is not reporting results by town but has the data by town. If the analytics were used by town this would allow better allocation of resources for areas to specific towns and neighboring towns and not the whole county.

If the outbreaks are Cape Elizabeth to Westbrook then all of Cumberland County does not need to be closed but those effected and towns like Naples, Harrison, Gray and New Gloucester seem to be fine to have open.

Accurate analytics helps businesses and seems likely if applied to the recovery would speed up the process, focus resources and keep people protected.