



FANTINI'S GAMING REPORT®

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Special Reporting Service

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NOTE: *As casinos are making plans and reopening we welcome all news and developments for these and anything COVID-19 related. Send your news releases to us at Editor@FantiniResearch.com. In addition, you may reach Editor Blake Weishaar at BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com or by phone at +1 302 730 3793.*

THIS IS THE WEEK

The reopening of the US casino industry breaks through this week.

Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota casinos open Monday. Connecticut casinos, which held invitation-only openings on Saturday, open to the public on Monday.

The biggest jurisdiction of them all, Nevada reopens Thursday, followed by West Virginia on Friday and by next Monday most of the remaining US casino industry will reopen.

Many Las Vegas Strip casinos are planning to reopen one minute after midnight Thursday, though with capacity limited to 50 percent.

The two biggest Strip operators, MGM Resorts and Caesars, will start by reopening just some properties, letting business demand determine when to reopen others.

However, citing customer demand, CZR already said it will reopen Harrah's on Friday, the day after Caesars Palace and the Flamingo reopen.

Details of casino re-openings and an interactive map of the status of every state are at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/gaming/fantini-s-covid-19-gaming-daily.html>.

In addition, the newest announcements of re-openings are reported below.

EVERI CEO TALKS FUTURE, CONTACTLESS

Contactless transactions on the casino floor will be important to casino patrons and operators in the post-pandemic world, Everi CEO Mike Rumbolz explains in a CEO One-On-One video interview with Fantini Research CEO Frank Fantini. Watch the full video at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/links/ceo-one-on-ones.html>.

The veteran industry leader spoke about his outlook for gaming in the near and long term and described the contactless products that will appear in casinos this summer.

Among his other observations:

- The initial rush of players to reopened casinos will level out and operators will have to manage margins given the limited number of gaming positions available.
- Suppliers won't be selling nearly as many slots as before in the US over the next year. EVRI is using this time to develop products so it will be available when casinos are ready to resume buying.
- Having both digital and physical products will be key to the future of brick-and-mortar casinos.

MISSISSIPPI BOOMING, BUT...

Mississippi casinos reopened with a boom on Memorial Day weekend with gaming revenues 17.3 percent over last year at \$33.9 million, the Sun Herald quoted the state gaming commission.

That came without the help of the state's largest casino, MGM Resorts' Beau Rivage in Biloxi, which opens Monday.

The report is the latest from the first smattering of casino re-openings of strong business demand.

However, Carlo Santarelli of Deutsche Bank estimates that so far business is down around 30 percent at reopened properties compared to January and February.

Foot traffic was 50 to 55 percent lower for the week ending May 25, though that was offset by heavier spending by players, Santarelli said.

Win per day was likely 29 percent lower than in January and February and down 31 percent, he said.

US OPENINGS: AZ, CA, CT, IN, IA, LV, NY, OR, RI, WA

- ARIZONA. Casino Arizona and Talking Stick in Scottsdale open Monday.

Plexiglass has been installed at table games and slots, but the casinos must operate at limited capacity.

- CALIFORNIA. Thunder Valley, Cache Creek and Red Hawk casinos near Sacramento and Jackson Rancheria reopen Monday, June 8.

- CONNECTICUT. Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods opened for invited guests only on Saturday and will open to the public on Monday.

- INDIANA casinos should reopen after June 14, WNDU-TV quoted Indiana Gaming Commission Deputy Director Jennifer Reske.

Horse racing will begin June 16, and spectators will be welcomed back after July 4.

The number of Quarter Horse races will be reduced to 64 as COVID-19 has cost the Quarter Horse development fund \$747,126, a decline of 43 percent.

- IOWA. One casino still not reopening is Winna Vegas as the Winnebago Indians cite concern over COVID-19 at their nearby reservation in Nebraska.

The tribe will discuss reopening at the June 12 council meeting.

- LAS VEGAS. The Fremont Street Experience in downtown will open Wednesday.

- NEW YORK casinos will reopen in the fourth phase of Governor Andrew Cuomo's plan, which has five regions moving into Phase Two on June 8.

Rush Street's Rivers Schenectady in New York canceled the Harbor Jam free summer concert and July 4th celebrations.

- OREGON. Wildhorse Casino has reopened.

- RHODE ISLAND. Twin Rivers' casinos in Tiverton and Lincoln reopen next Monday by invitation only and limited to 25 percent capacity.

Guests will also be assigned to one of three gaming rooms, each with separate entrances.

- WASHINGTON. Mohegan-managed Ilani casino has reopened.

INTERNATIONAL OPENINGS: JAPAN, SCOTLAND, SPAIN, UK

- JAPAN. The Japanese Derby was held on Sunday without spectators, with handle from betting online and by phone at 80 to 85 percent of previous sales, the Japan Times reported.

- SCOTLAND. Scottish Horse Racing will resume without spectators on June 22.

- SPAIN will resume horse racing on Wednesday and soccer on June 11.

- UK. The English Football Association announced the FA Cup will resume on June 27.

COMPANIES: BYD, RRR, RUFFIN, WYNN

- BOYD. Twenty five to 65 percent of employees at Diamond Jo Worth in Missouri could be laid off permanently, Globe Gazette reported.

- RED ROCK RESORTS is extending pay and benefits for full-time employees through reopening on Thursday.

- RUFFIN is suing Treasure Island's insurer Affiliated FM Insurance in a US District Court over COVID-19 claims.

On another matter, Ruffin is offering voluntary COVID-19 antibody tests to employees.

- WYNN. Encore Boston Harbor furloughed more than 10 percent of full-time workers and stopped paying 850 part-timers, the Boston Globe reported.

The casino had been paying employees during the shutdown.

H2: COVID TO CLIP REVENUES

COVID-19 will likely reduce North American gaming revenues by 19.2 percent, research firm H2 Gambling Capital says.

Asia should come in 22.8 percent behind pre-COVID-19 expectations.

Europe's revenue is forecasted to be 22.8 percent lower than expected.

The online share of global gaming revenue should come to 16.7 percent.

In total, H2 forecasts \$369.7 billion in global gaming revenues, down from its initial \$472.6 billion forecast.

H2 Gambling's Impact Tracker: <https://h2gc.com/news/general/covid19-h2-gambling-capital-impact-tracker-week-17-29-may-2020>.

FANTINI'S VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

As COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of many trade shows, now is the time to turn to a virtual show to display and advertise all your product lines and news events too. To exhibit your company, contact Dee Wild-Shyver at DWild@FantiniResearch.com.

See products, demos, and news from exhibitors at www.FantinisGamingShow.com.

CONVENTIONS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, EXPOS

Shows and conferences have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. As new dates become available or for those that transition to webinars, they will be listed in our online calendar at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/conventions.html>.

ABOUT THIS REPORT:

In Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily report we consolidate all developments about the virus that have business and investment implications for the gaming industry. We will post them on our website until further notice. Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily is a Special Report that is included with all levels of Fantini's Gaming Report subscriptions.

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