



FANTINI'S GAMING REPORT®

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Special Reporting Service

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Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily – Weekend Update

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STEPS BACK: MIAMI, MAYBE NV

For weeks, the most common news involving COVID-19 was US casinos reopening, though with reduced capacity and rules such as the requirement of facemasks and social distancing.

Now, steps back are starting to predominate.

The newest and biggest step back – the four commercial casinos of Miami-Dade County in Florida have shut down again after reopening June 10.

And website VitalVegas.com is speculating that Las Vegas Sands' Venetian might close for seven to 10 days and Caesars Palace may close temporarily now that the July 4 holiday is past.

Statewide in Nevada, Gov. Steve Sisolak is warning he will take swift and decisive action if businesses do not enforce protocols such as mandatory facemasks.

He issued that warning as COVID cases in Nevada are spiking to a new high and after a survey by state inspectors found only half of bars and restaurants are enforcing mask wearing.

There have been scattered re-closings throughout the country, such as Gila River Indian Community closing its three Phoenix area casinos for a second time, though they have since reopened again.

Miami area gaming operations that have reclosed: Churchill Downs's Calder Casino, Hialeah Park, Casino Miami, Magic City.

ELSEWHERE: CZR, CA, KANGWON, MI, MS, PA, WA

- CAESARS. Seven employees at Harrah's in Laughlin tested positive for COVID-19.

And in Indiana, Caesars Southern Indiana employees signed a petition demanding changes for safety, including requiring customers to wear facemasks and have their temperatures checked and a ban on indoor smoking.

- CALIFORNIA Gov. Gavin Newsome's rollback means that card clubs in 18 counties that had reopened for two weeks are closed again.

Elsewhere, Cache Creek Casino, which reopened June 8, is requiring all employees to undergo testing as what it called a small number have tested positive, the Sacramento Bee reported.

- KANGWON LAND once again pushed back the reopening of its South Korean casino, this time to July 13.

- MICHIGAN. Two employees of Legends Diner in Soaring Eagle Casino near Mt. Pleasant have tested positive.

- MISSISSIPPI now requires all casino guests to wear facemasks.

- PENNSYLVANIA. Rush Street's Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh has been ordered closed for a week following an employee testing positive.

The casino closed Friday on orders of the Allegheny Health Department.

On the other side of the state, Parx casino near Philadelphia has decided four days after opening last week that it will not allow smoking at slots machines. Smoking now is permitted outdoors only.

- WASHINGTON. Northern Quest Casino has canceled its summer concert series.

OPENINGS

US: AC, IL, IA, LV, ME, MA, MI, PA

NOTE: An interactive map and list of US casino openings and closings are at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/gaming/fantini-s-covid-19-gaming-daily.html>.

- ATLANTIC CITY's casinos continued their reopening over the weekend with reported sparse crowds.

Here is a Press of Atlantic City photo gallery:

https://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/gallery/gallery-caesars-atlantic-city-reopens-along-with-harrahs-and-ballys-after-covid-19-shutdown/collection_27973b29-2496-5d27-b901-75bd637675f1.html#1.

The one casino still closed is MGM's Borgata, which decided not to reopen as the state's ban on indoor dining and serving of any beverage impaired its ability to meet the Borgata standard of experience.

- ILLINOIS. Churchill Downs and Rush Street reopened Rivers casino in Des Plaines.

- IOWA. Caesars reopened Harrah's in Council Bluffs on Friday.

Meskwaki Casino in Tama reopened with facemasks required and smoking banned.

The casino also reduced hours of operation to 8 a.m. through midnight on weeknights and 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends.

- LAS VEGAS. MGM Grand has reopened its poker room.

- MAINE. Penn National's Hollywood Casino could open as early as Friday if it gets regulatory approval, WABI-TV reported.

- MASSACHUSETTS. Opening dates for Bay State casinos are set.

Penn National's Plainridge Park will start off Wednesday followed by Wynn's Encore Boston Harbor on the 12th and MGM Springfield the 13th.

- MICHIGAN. Ojibwa casinos in Marquette and Baraga have opened.

- PENNSYLVANIA. Parx horse track near Philadelphia will allow spectators again on Monday but limited to designated areas.

The Meadows, near Pittsburgh, has resumed harness racing, but the Penn National-operated track has suspended on-track wagering. Meadows casino remains open and customers can still bet on races online.

INTERNATIONAL OPENINGS: CAMBODIA, NETHERLANDS, RNK

- CAMBODIA casinos can now reopen upon approval of local health ministries.
- NETHERLANDS. Holland Casinos has reopened all of its 14 casinos.
- RANK GROUP reopened its Mecca-branded bingo clubs.

Thirty-five properties were initially opened while another 30 will open in phases through July and August.

GOING SMOKE FREE

One byproduct of safety protocols would not have been considered within reason just a few weeks ago – casinos are going smoke free, at least on gaming floors.

All the reopened Atlantic City casinos are smoke free, as are the casinos that have reopened so far in Pennsylvania.

Numerous individual properties throughout the country have announced going smoke free, with the latest being Tachi Palace in California, and Churchill Downs' Presque Isle Downs in Erie, Pennsylvania, having banned smoking temporarily.

In most cases, the no-smoking policies are being described as temporary, but with smokers now comprising less than 15 percent of the adult population, a move to permanent bans would be less surprising than the temporary bans would have seemed a month ago.

MACAU: TRAVEL STILL RESTRICTED

Despite weeks of continual speculation that travel restrictions between Macau, mainland China and Hong Kong will soon be eased, just isn't happening.

The latest delay is Hong Kong extending its quarantines until August 7.

Now, Inside Asia Gaming is reporting that many believe cross-border restrictions will not be lifted until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed.

Others are speculating that the political leaders of Guangdong Province, Macau's biggest feeder market, are in no hurry to risk repercussions if they allow their citizens to gamble in Macau and COVID cases spike as a result.

Meanwhile, casinos are asking the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau to permit trials of protective screens at slot machines and gaming tables, GGRAsia reported.

Currently, players and dealers must wear facemasks and maintain more than three feet of distance.

COMPANIES: DNA, DOUBLE U

- DONACO. Saying it is in urgent need of money because of COVID, DNA plans to raise US\$10 million to strengthen its balance sheet.

- DOUBLE U GAMES is postponing its US IPO of social gaming subsidiary Double Down Interactive citing economic uncertainty created by COVID.

Double U hoped to raise \$100 million in the IPO selling 400,000 new shares. In addition, minority owner STIC Investments would sell its 300,000 shares.

Double U said it intends to revive the IPO effort as soon as possible.

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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