

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 552 How Do We “Re-Open” Guam? – Part 2

Today, the second part of our discussion on how to get our economy going again. I’m Jerry Roberts and that’s next on The Extra Point.

Opening up Guam’s economy will require careful planning. Plain and simple, if we do it right we’ll be on our way to getting people back to work and returning to the normalcy we all want. If we do it wrong there will be stiff consequences.

Back in the mainland, California is teaming with Oregon and Washington to help each other come up with a plan that makes sense for all. On the East Coast, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Rhode Island and Massachusetts are forming a coalition. In the Midwest it’s Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. It’s likely that most states will seek such partnerships. Sharing brainpower and perhaps resources is smart, rather than trying to go it alone.

So, let’s ask the question, who will Guam team up with? Hawaii? Would we add in the CNMI, FSM, and Palau? Let’s reach out now and see if we can get this done.

The goal of reopening is to do it in such a way that you don’t screw it up and end up having to repeat the lockdown. We want gradual and steady progress, not stops and starts.

I had a whole list of things ready to go this morning but California governor Gavin Newsom and New York governor Andrew Cuomo jumped my Extra Point with statements yesterday — so I’m going to quote them. What they say makes sense and Guam needs to build its restart plan around what they’ve outlined.

Newsom described the “new normal” that Californians might see when rules are loosened, and right off the bat he’s saying that if things look good through May, maybe the program will start in June or July. That sounds like a

long ways off but as Dr. Fauci regularly reminds us, the virus is setting the timeline. We can’t rush this.

Newsom says masks could become more or less permanent. Schools might stagger starting times for students, restaurants may reopen with fewer tables, and large gatherings would remain off limits. What he’s talking about is a new set of rules for many businesses. We’ll see similar changes here in Guam.

Other specifics Newsom mentioned were:

1. The ability to closely monitor and track potential cases.
2. Prevent the infection of high-risk people.
3. Increasing surge capacity in hospitals and developing a treatment to deal with COVID-19 while we’re waiting for a vaccine.
4. Maintaining physical distance at schools, businesses and child care facilities.
5. Establishing guidelines for when people must stay home again if the virus surges.

For his part, Gov. Cuomo said the plan has to be about building solid data and evaluating results every step of the way. Both leaders agreed that any plan to reopen has to be about science and solid facts from experts, not politics.

Guam needs to do the same. Let’s partner up with other places. Let’s get a solid plan put together and have criteria set for when to implement it. Let’s do this right the first time, so we don’t end up locked down again, and have to start over.

That’s The Extra Point. Stay home and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I’m Jerry Roberts.

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