

Italian PM to announce reopening plan

April 21 2020



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Italy's Prime Minister said on Tuesday that by the weekend he would detail the steps the country will take to gradually loosen restrictions, reopen the economy and emerge from the coronavirus crisis.

Italy, which has declared more [coronavirus](#) deaths than any other

European country , has been under national quarantine since March 9, with some regions imposing lock-downs even earlier.

The quarantine period, which has been extended twice, is due to expire on May 3.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is caught between trying to avoid a fresh spike in infections of the virus—which has killed over 24,000 people in Italy—while avoiding additional damage to the economy.

"I would like to be able to say, let's open everything. Right away," Conte wrote on Facebook. "But such a decision would be irresponsible. It would make the contagion curve rise uncontrollably and would jeopardise all the efforts that we've made until now."

He laid out the difficulties of the so-called 'Phase 2' in reopening the [economy](#), saying a plan would be laid out "before the end of this week.

"A reasonable expectation is that we will apply it from May 4.

"We have to reopen on the basis of policy that takes into consideration all the details and cuts across all the data. A serious policy, scientific," Conte wrote.

In an example, he cited how, in allowing businesses to reopen, officials needed to consider how workers would get to and from work, in order to avoid congestion which could open the door to new contagion.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: Italian PM to announce reopening plan (2020, April 21) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-italian-pm-reopening.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.