



YOU'LL BE PLAYING AS:

**U.S. DEPUTY  
SECRETARY OF  
COMMERCE**

To view a black and white, printer-friendly version of this packet, click [here](#).

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## **WELCOME TO LIVES IN BALANCE LETTER**

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Scan this letter for the basic details you'll need to discuss the Bubble Plans. You can find links to the *Lives in Balance* trailer and tutorial videos here, too.

## **CHARACTER SHEET (U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE)**

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Read all about your character's background and goals for this scenario.

## **SOUTHWEST STATE COALITION MAP**

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Check out a map of the Southwest States Coalition. Will the pandemic unite or divide these neighbors?

## **CDC RE-OPENING GUIDELINES**

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Find out what the experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that states and employers do in the face of a pandemic.

## **ROLE REFLECTION EXERCISE**

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Use these prompts to help you get into character before you play *Lives in Balance*.

## **BASIC TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING SOFTWARE**

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Look here for help if you're playing *Lives in Balance* virtually and have some trouble with your video conferencing platform.

# WELCOME TO LIVES IN BALANCE

The members of the **Southwest States Coalition** are meeting today. They want to work together on their responses to the pandemic. They will look over each state's plan to "re-open" its economy.

The Coalition includes the governors from **Arizona, New Mexico, California,** and **Nevada**. Also joining is the **U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce**, who will share financial information to help the states decide. The **Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** will be at the meeting, too. This federal official will share the latest pandemic health information.

The Nevada and Arizona governors will be presenting their "**Bubble Plans**." These plans explain how the states will "re-open" their economies through professional sports events. Today's goal: Each Coalition member will vote to approve or deny "the Bubble Plans."

In **Arizona**, Major League Baseball (MLB) will start its season under their proposed Bubble Plan:

- Players, teams, and personnel will stay in socially distanced hotel rooms.
- All team and stadium personnel will have temperature checks each day.
- All team and stadium personnel will have weekly virus testing.
- Food will come only from the restaurant(s) at the hotels, with rapid testing of workers.
- Teams will be allowed to be face-to-face only in the hotel restaurant and lobby.
- Private shuttles will transport teams to and from the hotel and stadium.
- Shuttles will be cleaned each day before taking the teams to the stadium.
- There will be **no fans**.

In **Nevada**, the National Football League (NFL) will start its season under their proposed Bubble Plan:

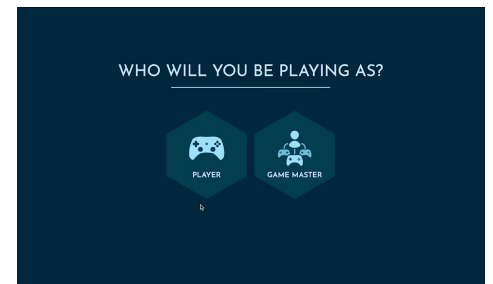
- Players, teams, and personnel will stay in socially distanced hotel rooms.
- There will be one team per hotel.
- All team and stadium personnel will have weekly virus testing.
- All team and stadium personnel will have temperature checks twice a day.
- Players and staff will be allowed to be face-to-face in private meeting rooms only.
- Private shuttles will be transport teams to and from the hotel and stadium.
- CDC-approved helmets will be provided. They feature an improved visor and a certified air filtration system.
- There will be **no fans**.

**What is more important, putting people back to work or the health of the residents? Where does the federal government stand? Is it helping or hurting the states? You decide!**

BEFORE PLAYING THE SIMULATION,  
PLEASE WATCH THE VIDEOS  
LINKED BELOW.



LIVES IN BALANCE TRAILER



ITHRIVE SIM WALKTHROUGH





## ROLE DESCRIPTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE  
EST. 1903



You are the Deputy Secretary of Commerce. You report to the Secretary of Commerce and take direction from the White House. You are part of the president's cabinet. Your job is to increase job numbers and grow the U.S. economy. During the pandemic, you support states in "re-opening" their economies. You encourage the states to re-open businesses. You also know they need to follow the White House-approved CDC guidelines. Another part of your job is to make sure goods and services flow smoothly across state lines. Interstate business helps grow the national economy.


## ABOUT YOU

-  You are a member of the Department of Commerce and the president's cabinet. You command respect.
-  You have a big say in where federal funds go. You can usually expect the Governors to try to get on your good side.
-  You can command a room with your "knife-like," direct statements.
-  The White House and the Secretary of Commerce trust you to help grow the national economy.

# WHAT YOU DO

- 🌀 You take your cues from the Department of Commerce and the White House. You share their advice with the governors.
- 🌀 In the Coalition meetings you try to convince states to re-open their economies.
- 🌀 You make decisions based on economic facts and estimates.
- 🌀 You do not really trust the information shared on social media. But you will use it if it supports your position.

# GOALS



Your goal is to grow the national economy. Convince the states in the Coalition to re-open their economies. They should open businesses and let people return to work. Be vocal in supporting the Bubble Plans in Arizona and Nevada. The plans will generate income for these states.

# OTHER CHARACTERS

## ARIZONA GOVERNOR

You like the **Arizona Governor**. You admire their decisive action and generally see eye-to-eye. You are usually supportive of their initiatives.

## CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

You don't like the **California Governor**. You think they are a bit full of themselves. You feel the California Governor too often ignores your advice.

## NEVADA GOVERNOR

You like the **Nevada Governor**. You speak the same language: money. But you do not completely trust that they're always honest. You wonder if they go behind your back.

## NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR

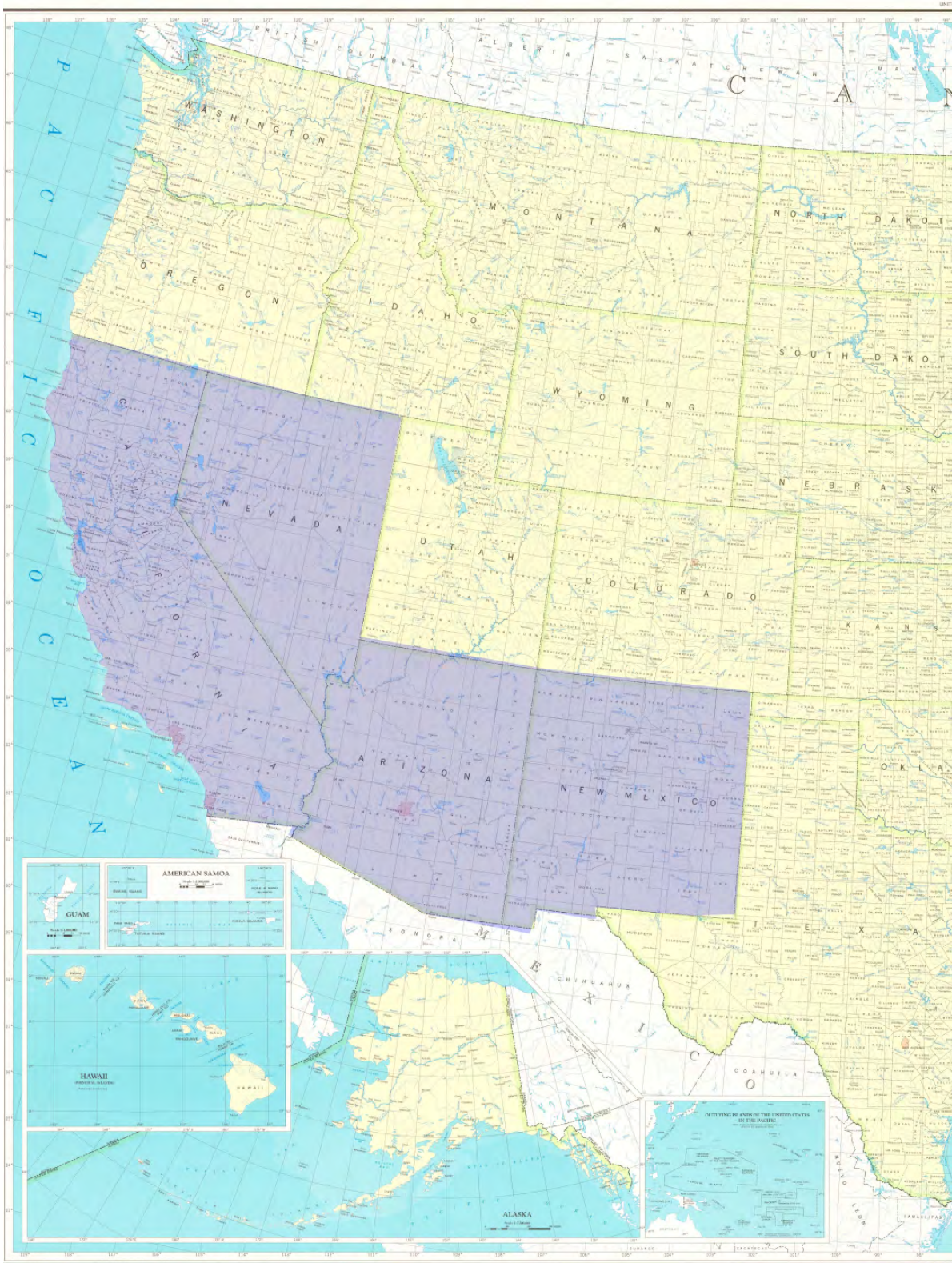
You are at odds with the **New Mexico Governor**. You are tired of their requests for additional funding. The requests started before the pandemic. You try to avoid meeting with them.

## PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CDC

You have not worked with the **Principal Deputy Director of the CDC** before this. You will support them as long as they do not get in your way.

# SOUTHWEST STATES COALITION

This map is intended for educational purposes only.



# CDC RE-OPENING GUIDELINES

ITHRIVE SIM: LIVES IN BALANCE



IF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOLLOW STRICT PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SANITATION RULES, THEY MAY OPEN.

## 1 Phase One SPECIFIC TYPES OF EMPLOYERS



**SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZED YOUTH ACTIVITIES** (e.g., daycare, camp): **NO**



**BARS: NO**



**ELECTIVE SURGERIES: YES** as clinically appropriate, on an outpatient basis at facilities that adhere to medical guidelines



**LARGE VENUES** (e.g., sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship): **YES** under strict physical distancing protocols



**GYMS: YES**



**VISITS TO SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS: NO**

## 2 Phase Two SPECIFIC TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

**SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZED YOUTH ACTIVITIES** (e.g., daycare, camp): **YES**

**BARS YES** with reduced capacity

**ELECTIVE SURGERIES: YES** on an outpatient and in-patient basis at facilities that adhere to medical guidelines

**LARGE VENUES** (e.g., sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship): **YES** under moderate physical distancing protocols

**GYMS YES**

**VISITS TO SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS: NO**

EACH PHASE OF THIS GUIDANCE ADDRESSES THOSE ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE FOR WHICH RESTRICTIONS REMAIN APPROPRIATE DUE TO THE VIRUS.

**PART ONE:** Read about your character, then answer the following questions:

- (1) What role will you be playing?
  
- (2) Based on what you know about the scenario and the role, what are you most curious about?
  
- (3) What is one main goal your character is trying to achieve?
  
- (4) Based on the description, what's one thing about your character you relate to? Explain.
  
- (5) Based on the description, what's one thing about your character you DON'T relate to? Explain.

**PART TWO:** Discuss your responses with one or more members of your role-play team. Your role-play team also may choose to warm up for the simulation by introducing yourselves in character.

**Complete this exercise using the Google Docs document [here](#).**



***iThrive Sim: Lives in Balance*** is designed to be accessible to participants in any location. All you need is WiFi access and a device, such as a laptop or Chromebook.

For students learning virtually, the social interactions in ***iThrive Sim*** will require using an additional video conferencing software tool, such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc.

## ACROSS VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORMS, HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

### YOU ARE USING A BROWSER FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING:

- You will need two (2) browsers open; one for the *iThrive Sim* website and one for the video conferencing site.
- Arrange the browsers side-by-side so that they are both visible. To do this, you may need to minimize both windows so that you are able to adjust the size and arrangement of both to be visible (for example, neither browser should be in full-screen mode).

### NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU:

- Call into the meeting using the phone number listed on the video conferencing invitation you received.
- Mute your computer mic and use your phone to communicate.

### YOU CAN'T SEE THE VIDEOS IN THE ITHRIVE SIM PLATFORM:

- Post a note in the chatbox to let the facilitator know. The facilitator can play the videos over the video conferencing software instead.

### YOUR CAMERA FEATURE ISN'T WORKING:

- As long as you can hear and be heard by the other participants, you will be able to play ***iThrive Sim***.

### MORE RESOURCES

Below, you'll find links to help guides for relevant questions on commonly used video conferencing platforms. If there are other platforms you need information about, search for help guides online or feel free to reach out to us at least one week prior to running your simulation at [support@ithrivesim.org](mailto:support@ithrivesim.org).

#### FOR ZOOM:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Managing Breakout Rooms](#)
- [Pre-assigning Participants to Breakout Rooms](#)

#### FOR GOOGLE MEET:

- [Troubleshooting Network, Audio, and Video](#)
- [Start a new Google Meet Video](#)
- [Use breakout rooms in Google Meet](#)

#### FOR MICROSOFT TEAMS:

- [Get Started with a Live Event](#)
- [Using Video in Teams](#)
- [Join a Teams Meeting](#)
- [Use breakout rooms in Teams meetings](#)