



What does COVID-19 Mitigation Order 2020-2 require?

COVID-19 Mitigation Order 2020-2 was issued December 11, 2020 and is aligned with [Tier 3](#) mitigation measures and Executive Order 2020-73. It contains industry requirements and best practices for COVID mitigation in our jurisdiction. All measures listed, both requirements and best practices, should be followed to mitigate the spread of COVID in our workplaces, businesses and community:

All Businesses

- Continue to evaluate which employees are able to work from home, and facilitate remote work from home, when possible.
- Designate with signage, tape, or by other means, six foot spacing for employees and customers to maintain appropriate distance.
- Ensure that employees practice physical distancing and wear face coverings when physical distancing is not always possible.
- Implement separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers, where appropriate.
- Ensure that all spaces where employees may gather, including locker rooms and lunchrooms, allow for physical distancing.
- Ensure that all visitors (customers, vendors, etc.) to the workplace can practice physical distancing.
- Require employees, customers, and other individuals on the premises who are over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when on premises when indoors. Face coverings are required outdoors when employees, customers and other individuals are unable to maintain at least a six-foot physical distance or as otherwise stated in this order. Businesses, services, facilities or organizations that offer food or beverages for in-person consumption may permit employees, customers, and other individuals to remove their face coverings only while seated and in the processes of eating or drinking outdoors, but must require face coverings at all other times.
- Masks shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner. Bag lined refuse bins shall be available for their disposal by employees and the public.
- Cap occupancy at 25 percent capacity for customer-facing activity.
- Prominently post the [guidance](#) from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General regarding workplace safety during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Provide employees with appropriate face coverings and requiring that employees wear face coverings where maintaining a six-foot physical distance is not possible at all times. When the work circumstances require, providing employees with other PPE in addition to face coverings.

Bars, Restaurants, Private Clubs, Country Clubs (All businesses that offer food or beverages for on-premises consumption, including, but not limited to, restaurants, bars, grocery stores, and food halls)

- Must close at 11pm and may reopen no earlier than 6am the following day.
- No indoor service. Only outdoor on-premises food and beverage consumption is permitted in accordance with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) guidance.
- All patrons must be seated at tables outside.
- No ordering, seating, or congregating at bar (bar stools must be removed).
- Table placement must allow for parties to be seated 6 feet apart from one another.
- No standing or congregating outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting.





- No dancing, standing or congregating indoors.
- No tables exceeding 6 people.
- Reservations required for each party.
- No seating of multiple guest parties at one table.
- Indoor gaming terminals must suspend operations.
- Delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, and curbside pick-up may continue.
- Tents may be used for outdoor dining if at least two sides of the tent are open to allow airflow. If more than two sides of the tent are enclosed, this is considered indoors for purposes of this order.

Health and Fitness Centers (including swimming pools)

- Operate at no more than 25% capacity.
- No indoor group classes.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times, including while engaged in individual exercise regardless of person or machine spacing.
- Reservations required.
- Locker room areas must be closed except as permitted by DCEO guidance.
- Indoor pools and indoor water features for recreation, amusement or group lessons must be closed.
- Lap swimming is permissible at facilities; 1 swimmer per lane is allowed and reservations are required.

Hotels

- Hotel room occupancy must be limited to registered guests only, with the maximum allowance being the number of individuals permissible per existing fire code for each applicable guest room.
- Swimming pool and spa areas must be closed or operated only on a reservation model, and only used as allowed by DCEO guidance.
- Indoor pools and indoor water features for recreational use and amusement must be closed.
- Fitness centers must be closed or operated only on a reservation model, with capacity limited to 25% of the maximum occupancy for the room. Health and Fitness Centers section requirements apply.
- Hotel restaurants and bars are subject to the requirements for Restaurants and Bars, but grab-and-go food, take-out and room service for in-room consumption is allowed.
- Gatherings may not be hosted in event and meeting spaces or in other locations of the hotel.

Recreational, Theaters and Cultural Institutions (including, but not limited to, casinos, gaming, bowling, arcades, theaters and perform arts, spectator events, museums, aquariums and zoos)

- Gaming and casinos must be closed.
- Indoor public amusement and indoor recreational activities are prohibited.
- Outdoor activities are permitted at 25% capacity or less.
- Outdoor group activities limited to 10 persons or less. Participants/guests must wear face coverings at all times and adhere to physical distancing requirements at all times.
- Reservations are required for each guest for outdoor activities.

Manufacturing

- Provide additional COVID training for all employees required even if previous training occurred.
- Operators should coordinate with IDPH to implement testing protocols and contact tracing, upon request, consistent with available testing supplies.





- Provide face coverings to all employees who are not able to maintain a minimum six-foot physical distance.
- All employees must wear face coverings at all times unless eating or drinking. Exemptions are only allowed for safety purposes.
- Only manufacturing staff and key personnel allowed in facilities. Non-production employees must work remotely. Non-essential staff and visitors are not permitted. Exemptions only for critical equipment repairs, supply deliveries and safety reasons (“critical visitors”).
- All critical visitors must have an Employee Health and Safety (EHS)-approved risk-assessment done in advance, including travel history, tracking, and temperature check prior to entrance.
- Implement additional workstation realignment, when feasible.
- Stagger and space shifts, and designate shift entrances and exits (when possible) to minimize interactions of employees across unique shift groupings.
- Station sanitation are required at the beginning and ending of shifts.
- Review policies to ensure that workers are not encouraged or incentivized to report to work while sick or potentially contagious (this may include suspending attendance-based incentive pay and implementing temporary sick leave policies). Implement temporary leave policies to accommodate workers who are sick.
- Develop and implement safety protocols for employee travel vans to promote spacing, require face coverings, temperature checks, air circulation, and vehicle sanitization.

Meetings, Social Events and Gatherings (including, but not limited to, weddings, potlucks, etc.)

- Meeting rooms, banquet centers, private party rooms, private clubs and country clubs may not host gatherings.
- Venues hosting funeral or visitation services are subject to [IDPH guidance](#).
- Party buses are prohibited.
- Funerals are limited to 10 family members of the decedents, not including staff.

Offices

- Provide face coverings to all employees.
- Cap occupancy at 50 percent of office capacity, and consider implementing stricter capacity limits where the physical space does not clearly allow for physical distancing.
- Allow telework where possible.
- Develop and prominently post plans and signage to ensure physical distancing in shared spaces such as waiting rooms, service counters, and cafeterias.

Organized group recreational activities (including, but not limited to sports, indoor sports and activity facilities, park districts, travel leagues, etc.):

- Pause all indoor group sporting and recreational activities including youth and adult recreational sports, individual training may remain (with facility reservation).
- Outdoor sports and recreation allowed.
- Participant groups and practices outdoors limited to 10 persons or less with physical distancing.
- Face coverings required as stated in All Businesses section.
- Locker room areas must be closed except as permitted by DCEO guidance.





Personal Care Service:

- Operate at lesser of 25 clients or 25% capacity.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times by clients and service providers.
- Suspend services where a face covering cannot be worn (e.g. facials, beard trims).
- Massage therapy and body treatments allowed as deemed necessary by a medical provider, but appointments must be spaced by a minimum of 15 minutes and facilities should take steps to sanitize and circulate clean air through service rooms before and after each service.

Retail (including service counters)

- Operate at no more than 25% capacity, including general merchandise stores, "big box" stores that offer groceries and pharmacy, and convenience stores.
- Grocery stores and pharmacies may operate at up to 50% capacity.
- Provide face coverings to all employees.
- Communicate with customers through in-store signage, and public service announcements and advertisements, about the physical distancing and face covering requirements.
- Post signage requiring face coverings to be worn on the premises.
- Provide face coverings to customers.
- Give verbal warnings to customers to wear a face covering when on the premises.
- Request that customers leave the premises if not wearing a face covering.
- Promote delivery or curbside pickup options wherever possible.
- When in-store shopping is necessary, promote efficient trips and consistent circulation.

Face covering or mask in this Order refers to a complete and tight knit fabric or cloth, or medical mask that is appropriately sized for the individual's face to snugly cover the nasal openings and mouth without the necessity of being held in place by the individual's hands.

Where reservation requirements or lists are required in this Order, the business, organization and/or employers must make available the list for each party to Cook County Department of Public Health upon request.

Are there exemptions to Order 2020-2?

The exemptions to Order 2020-2 are the following:

- **Free exercise of religion.** This Order does not limit the free exercise of religion. To protect the health and safety of faith leaders, staff, congregants and visitors, religious organizations and houses of worship are strongly encouraged to consult and follow the recommended [practices and guidelines](#) from the Illinois Department of Public Health. As set forth in the IDPH guidelines, the safest practices for religious organizations at this time are to provide services online, in a drive-in format, or outdoors (and consistent with physical distancing requirements and guidance regarding wearing face coverings), and to limit services to 10 people. Religious organizations are strongly encouraged to take steps to ensure physical distancing, the use of face coverings, and implementation of other public health measures.
- **Emergency functions.** All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support the emergency response are exempt from this





Order, but are encouraged to practice physical distancing and take recommended public health measures.

- **Governmental functions.** This Order does not apply to the United States government and does not affect services provided by the State or any municipal, township, county, subdivision or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public.

How is this order different from COVID-19 Mitigation Order 2020-1?

COVID-19 Mitigation Order 2020-1 was issued November 6 and is aligned with Tier 1 mitigation measures and Executive Order 2020-63. This order, Mitigation Order 2020-2, is aligned with [Tier 3](#) mitigation measures and Executive Order 2020-73.

If there is a difference in a specific measure between one tier and another, which measure applies?

The measures for the current tier apply. As of the date of the FAQ, suburban Cook County, as well as the rest of the state of Illinois, are in Tier 3. Tier 3 measures prevail. That means, for example, that the Tier 3 measure requiring casinos to close prevails over the Tier 1 measure restricting casinos to 25% capacity.

Which tier is suburban Cook County following now?

As of the date of this FAQ the state of Illinois is following the measures in Tier 3. Tier 3 measures build on the Tier 1 measures.

How can I follow what tier suburban Cook County is in?

These FAQs will continue to be updated when tiers change. Our current Mitigation measures are listed on CCDPH's [Mitigation Guidance](#) webpage. Additionally, the State of Illinois [Coronavirus Response – Tiered Mitigations](#) page lists the current mitigation tier for regions of the state.

Are these new measures?

No. Order 2020-2 restates the state's current [mitigation measures](#) for Tier 3 and cites the County Code that gives us authority to enforce the steps that have already been put in place.

Why issue this order?

The tiered mitigations were implemented in the face of surging COVID-19 transmission in our region. The orders help us, and our local partners, to work with businesses to gain compliance with the mitigation actions that have been outlined by the state.



What are tiered mitigations?

Tiered mitigation guidance was developed as part of the [Governor's Restore Illinois Resurgence Plan](#), and are applied if a region is experiencing increasing positivity rates and/or increases in COVID-19 hospital admissions or reduction in hospital capacity. Each tier builds on the previous one, and adds measures to increase safety as COVID-19 risk increases. Tier 3, for example, contains measures from Tier 1 and 2, and adds new measures to the list. The mitigation requirements in the CCDPH order are the same as those included in the tiered mitigation levels in the Resurgence Plan.

Does CCDPH work alone to enforce tiered mitigation requirements?

No. Municipalities, local law enforcement, and health departments all have a role in enforcing these requirements. We are working with those partners to address violations and to gain compliance.

What gives CCDPH the authority to enforce the tiered mitigation requirements?

Authority is delegated to CCDPH by the Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the Illinois Public Health Act (20 ILCS 2305/1.1 et seq.); the Illinois Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-15 et seq.); and the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances (Chapter 38, Article II et seq.), and makes clear the role and authority of local leadership and CCDPH to enforce the steps that have been put in place.

How does CCDPH act to enforce the mitigation?

CCDPH works in partnership with local municipalities and law enforcement to address violations. We respond to complaints from partners and the public, and support municipalities in the actions they take. In cases where CCDPH takes enforcement action, a notice addressing the violation will be given to the business. In the event establishments do not comply, CCDPH can work with municipalities or the State's Attorney Office to take next steps.

If businesses don't comply, what are the penalties?

Violations of this Order shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-38. This section of the ordinance provides that businesses that violate the order may be subject to a Class B misdemeanor, arrest, a fine of \$1,000 per offense and/or enjoined from further actions in violation of the order. In addition to this, local governments within the CCDPH jurisdiction may have other enforcement actions they have authority to take, such as licensing suspensions or fines, for failure to comply with the CCDPH order and/or the Executive Order.

Will the mitigation requirements really help address rising rates of COVID-19 transmission?

Studies have indicated that risk for contracting COVID-19 increases in crowded indoor spaces. Additionally, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigation found that people diagnosed with COVID were twice as likely to have eaten at a restaurant than people who tested negative for the infection.



What if I have questions about businesses in suburban Cook County?

The CCDPH COVID-19 hotline (708-836-4755) and email (ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org) are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer general questions about COVID-19, or to express concerns about businesses not complying with mitigation orders. Businesses that have been cited for not complying with the tiered mitigation measures are listed on the [CCDPH Mitigation Guidance](#) webpage. Residents are encouraged to call their local law enforcement or municipal leadership, as well.

