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ORDER OF THE
COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
No. 2021-8
COVID-19 BRIDGE PHASE MITIGATION

Effective: May 14, 2021

WHEREAS, On January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health is the Illinois certified local health department for suburban Cook County, Illinois, with the exception of Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park, and Stickney Township, serving 127 municipalities.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health is responsible for determining when a danger to the public health exists within its jurisdiction, and to order measures deemed necessary to protect the public health until such time that the danger to the public health is eliminated or reduced in such a manner that an immediate threat no longer exists.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-33(b), a law enforcement officer with proper jurisdiction shall be authorized to enforce

orders issued by the Cook County Department of Public Health with respect to public health measures and shall assist in enforcing such orders.

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has announced that suburban Cook County can move to Phase 4, effective February 2, 2021, and the Bridge Phase on May 14, 2021.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health has determined that additional mitigation measures are necessary to protect the public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority delegated to it 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.*), the Cook County Department of Public Health hereby directs and orders:

All Businesses and Individuals

- Staff and patrons in all sectors must comply with [Executive Orders](#) on masking issued by the Governor of the State of Illinois, and follow masking guidance specific to industry sectors as provided by the [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) (DCEO), and any guidance issued by the Cook County Department of Public Health.
- All individuals over the age of two and able to medically tolerate a mask, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear masks in health care settings, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, shelters and other congregate settings, on planes, buses, trains, other forms of public transportation, in airports, and in other transportation stations or hubs. Schools should continue to follow CDC guidance.
- Mask 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.

- All venue operators and event organizers must have a plan to ensure individuals wear a mask in compliance with state Orders and DCEO guidance, limit congregation and discourage standing, and minimize crowding during entry/exit from their facility during operation and throughout the duration of any events held within. Failure to require patrons who are not fully-vaccinated to be masked will be seen as a violation of the establishment to operate safely.
- Fully-vaccinated individuals are exempt from capacity limits in all sectors.
- People are considered fully vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series or ≥ 2 weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine.
- Businesses that choose to participate in allowing any exemptions allowed by Executive Order or this Mitigation Order for fully-vaccinated patrons must establish a system for verifying vaccination status. At minimum, it is the responsibility of the business to track patrons who are fully vaccinated and maintain those records so that they are available for health department investigators upon request. Copies of proof of vaccination, such as a patron's vaccination card, do not need to be maintained by the business.
- Records need to be kept on attendees for contact tracing by venue.

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):

- Indoor service is limited up to 75% of capacity per room. A room is a separate and distinct area within an establishment that has transitional elements between the spaces (such as plexiglass, doors, walls, etc.).
- Table placement, both indoor and outdoor, must allow for parties to be seated 6 feet apart from one another. Seatbacks of one table must be 6 feet from the seatbacks of the other table.
- For parties where all individuals are not fully-vaccinated:
 - Indoor and outdoor table size limited to no more than 10 people per party.

- Indoor and outdoor bar/counter seating is limited to no more than 6 people per party.
- Bar and counter seating is allowed with 6 feet between parties.
- Indoors and outdoors, there is no party size limit if all individuals 16 years and older in the party are fully vaccinated.
- Food must be available to be ordered and received at all times in order to offer indoor service. Bars, taverns or breweries without a food service license/permit can serve indoors as long as they partner with a food establishment (e.g., making menus available and allowing food delivery, allowing patrons to order from third-party delivery services).
- Staff and patrons must be masked in accordance with the guidance provided by the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- Standing areas are limited to 25% capacity per room. Congregation of over 6 people <6-ft. apart in a standing area is prohibited.
- Outdoor service includes:
 - Rooms with retractable roofs;
 - Rooftops;
 - Multi-party structures, such as tents, with at least 50% of walls open;
 - Single-party structures, such as igloos, with proper ventilation; and/or
 - Tables indoors within eight feet of an open wall or window that is at least 50% open to the outdoor air.
- All venues must keep dance floors and spaces closed.
- For live performances, patron seating within 10-ft. of stage must be removed or an impermeable barrier installed between stage and patrons.
- A 10-ft. separation distance between performers and patrons must be maintained where patrons are allowed to eat and drink.

Meetings, Convention Centers, and Conferences

- All venue operators and event organizers must have a plan to ensure masking of individuals in accordance with IL DCEO guidelines, limit

congregation and discourage standing, and minimize crowding during entry/exit throughout duration of the event.

- 60% capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is fewer
- Indoor table and outdoor table size limited to no more than 10 people. There is no table size limit if all individuals 16 years and older in the party are fully vaccinated.

Social Events and Gatherings - including, but not limited to, weddings, potlucks, school ceremonies, etc.

- Venues hosting social events and gatherings such as, but not limited to, weddings and end of school year celebrations (excludes graduation ceremonies):
 - Indoor events allowed up to 250 individuals.
 - Outdoor events allowed up to 500 individuals
- All venues must keep dance floors and spaces closed.
- Indoor and outdoor table size limited to no more than 10 people. There is no party size limit if all individuals 16 years and older in the party are fully vaccinated.

Indoor and Outdoor Activities

- Parks and Outdoor Attractions
 - Indoor spaces (e.g., field houses, indoor exhibit spaces) limited to lesser of 50% capacity, or a maximum of 100 individuals per partitioned space.
 - Group size for outdoor activities is limited to a maximum of 100 people per group, with multiple groups permitted while maintaining appropriate social distancing.
 - Zoos limited to 60% capacity.
 - Amusement Parks limited to 60% capacity.

- Facilities should ensure exhibit or indoor spaces maintain 60% capacity limits and crowd control measures to keep people from congregating.
- Flea Markets and Farmers Markets– In addition to following Illinois DCEO Retail Guidelines and where applicable food service and sale requirements:
 - Indoor capacity limited to 15 people per 1,000 sqft.
 - Outdoor capacity limited to 30 people per 1,000 sqft.
 - Operators must have a wellness screening program and provide safety materials to all vendors before arriving on site. Operators must also conduct pre-shift and 5-hour shift screenings of the vendors.
- Festivals and other general admission outdoor standing spectator events
 - Limited to a maximum of 30 people per every 1,000 sqft of open space.
- Indoor Recreation Centers (e.g., arcades, roller rinks, driving ranges)
 - Indoor spaces limited to the lesser of 50% capacity, or a maximum of 100 individuals per space.
 - If the facility has an outdoor component, each outdoor space is limited to a maximum of 100 people per group while outside, with multiple groups permitted while maintaining appropriate social distancing.
- Public Swimming Pools, Spas and Other Facilities that have public swimming pools including, but not limited to health/fitness clubs, hotels, child cares, park districts, schools, clubs, mobile home parks, resorts, etc.:
 - Must follow all of Illinois Department of Public Health’s Swimming Facility Guidelines found here, including all masking guidance:
 - <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/swimming-facility-guidelines>
 - http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/Swimming%20Facility%20Guidelines_v5_210505.pdf
 - Indoor capacity is limited to 100 bathers or 60% of facility capacity, with distanced groups.
 - Outdoor capacity is limited to a maximum group size of 100 bathers, multiple groups permissible with social distancing maintained.

- Ancillary accommodations such as saunas, hot tubs, jacuzzies, spas, whirlpools and steam rooms are to remain closed.
- Organized Group Recreational Activities (i.e., sports, indoor sports & activities facilities) Not applicable to professional sports.
 - Limit group sporting and recreational activities including youth and adult recreational sports to the lesser of 50% capacity, or a maximum of 100 individuals indoors. This includes park districts and travel leagues.
 - Group size for outdoor activities is limited to 100 people, multiple groups permitted, while maintaining appropriate social distancing.
 - Individual training may continue (with facility reservation).
 - Locker rooms and showers can remain open, if strict and frequent cleaning measures are in place.
 - Illinois All Sports Policy is required to be followed for sports play level and allowances.

Bowling

- Operate at the lesser of 200 people or 50% of venue capacity.
- Groups of bowlers of up to 50 people will be separated by two unused, or “dark” lanes.
- Refer to the Restore Illinois Phase 4 Bowling Guidelines on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website.

Museums

- Capacity limited to 60% occupancy.

Seated Spectator Events, including Performance Venues and Movie Theaters

- Indoor and Outdoor spaces limited to 60% capacity.
- Group size limited to 10.
- For live performances, patron seating within 10-ft. of stage must be removed or an impermeable barrier installed between stage and patrons.
- A 10-ft. separation distance between performers and patrons must be maintained where patrons are allowed to eat and drink.

- All food and beverage guidelines must be followed.
- Indoor standing-room-only events are not permitted.

Film & TV Production

- Encourage production to limit groups of cast and crew.
- Limit capacity to 60% for all indoor spaces, while still adhering to gathering size restrictions.

Health and Fitness Centers

- Indoor facilities are limited to a maximum of 60% capacity.
- Gatherings of employees and customers in common areas (e.g., check-in area) is limited to a maximum of 50 individuals, while ensuring proper social distancing.
- Indoor fitness classes are limited to 50 people per room, provided that six feet of social distancing can be maintained between patrons and face coverings are worn at all times.
- Outdoor fitness classes are limited to a maximum of 100 individuals, while ensuring proper social distancing.
- Locker rooms and showers can remain open if strict and frequent cleaning measures are in place.
- Ancillary accommodations such as saunas, hot tubs, jacuzzies, spas, whirlpools and steam rooms are to remain closed.

Personal Services

- Indoor space limited to 60% capacity while practicing social distancing.

Retail Stores

- Retail stores are limited to a maximum of 60% capacity.

Hotel & Accommodations

- Fitness centers limited to a maximum of 60% capacity. Hotel guests are required to be masked at all times in the fitness center.
- Event and meeting spaces limited to the lesser of 1,000 individuals or 60% capacity.

Short Term Rentals

- Limit gatherings to vaccinated individuals or single households when possible.

Office Buildings

- All employees who can work remotely are encouraged work remotely.
- If remote work is not possible, limit capacity to 60% for all indoor spaces, including tenant spaces.

Residential Buildings

- Limit capacity in common areas and amenity spaces (e.g., conference rooms, tenant lounges) to 60% capacity for indoor spaces or activities, while ensuring proper social distancing.

Businesses (Including Manufacturing, Construction, Warehousing and Healthcare)

- Limit gatherings of employees in cafeterias, meeting rooms and other gathering points or choke points on the site to no more than 60% capacity per room, while ensuring proper social distancing.

Transportation

- Taxis and Rideshares
 - Vehicles limited to a maximum of 9 individuals, including the driver.

Cook County Department of Public Health may allow variance to this Order on a case by case review basis which would be based on, but not limited to, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Department of Public Health policy and guideline updates.

Exemptions

- **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](#). Religious organizations are strongly encouraged to take steps to ensure social 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 social 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.

In addition to any other penalty provided by law, violations of this Order shall be subject to the penalties as set forth in the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-38.

This Order repeals and replaces Cook County Department of Public Health Order 2021-7.

Nothing in this Order shall, in any way, alter or modify the legal authority of the State or any county, or local government body.

If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Order are declared to be severable. This Order is meant to be read consistently with any Court order regarding this Order.

This Direction and Order by the Cook County Department of Public Health shall remain in effect for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency as declared by United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, or until such time the Cook County Department of Public Health makes a written determination that the threat to public safety has diminished to the point that this Order can be safely repealed.



Dated: May 14, 2021

Effective: May 14, 2021

Name: Rachel Rubin

Senior Medical Officer, Co-Lead

Cook County Department of Public Health