

# RESTAURANT & BAR ESTABLISHMENT SAFETY GUIDELINES



Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity  
JB Pritzker, Governor

## RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

### PART OF PHASE 4 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | ISSUED ON AUG 25, 2020 | EARLIEST EFFECTIVE AUG 26, 2020

The Revitalization Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes larger gathering sizes, additional businesses reopening and increased capacities. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

**Updated 8/25/2020**

### NEW SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PATRONS

#### Minimum Guidelines

1. NEW: Patron should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when approached and serviced by establishment employees, including but not limited to when employees take patron orders, deliver food and beverages, and service tables, whether dining indoor or outdoor.
2. NEW: Patrons should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when picking up carry out orders.

#### Encouraged Best Practices

1. NEW: Patrons should be encouraged to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when picking up food at a drive-thru window.

#### Overview

SAR-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus that has emerged and caused coronavirus disease, abbreviated as COVID-19. Public health experts continue to learn about COVID-19, but based on current data and similar coronaviruses, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts<sup>1</sup> via respiratory droplets. Transmission to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented yet, but current evidence suggests that the virus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of material.

#### Purpose

The IDPH provides the following safety guidance for retail restaurant and bar establishments. To prevent exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 the Department provides the following guidance. Additional guidance may be needed as COVID-19 outbreak conditions change, including as new information about the virus, its transmission, and impacts, becomes available.

**At this time, restaurant and bar establishments are allowed to resume indoor dining operations**, as included in part of Governor Pritzker's "[Restore Illinois](#)" plan. The Restore Illinois plan breaks the State up into 4 different regions, each of which will be evaluated based on several metrics individually to determine which Phase of recovery that region is in. To determine what phase each region of the State is in, please visit the following link: [Phase of Restore Illinois](#). Once the region in which a retail restaurant and bar establishment is located is promoted to Phase IV of the recovery, operations can resume following this IDPH Restaurant and Bar Establishment Reopening Safety Guidance.

**Note:** Organizations that operate across multiple workplace environments should refer to applicable Phase IV guidelines for guidance on those workplaces.

**Note:** As of release, seated area capacity of restaurants and bars should be determined by arranging seating to provide a minimum of six feet between tables or other designated patron service areas. Standing area capacity of restaurants or bars may operate at maximum of 25% of standing area capacity. Capacity restrictions will be reassessed based on the latest science and public health metrics on an ongoing basis throughout Phase IV.

<sup>1</sup> Close contacts include household contacts, intimate contacts, or contacts within 6-ft. for 15 minutes or longer unless wearing N95 mask during period of contact

