

September 11, 2020

Dear DuPage County Business Owner,

Thank you for doing your part in DuPage County and helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. This communication outlines the current level of COVID-19 activity in DuPage County and provides updates on several new tools the state has implemented to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

As of today, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) risk level in DuPage County has changed from blue to orange on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) County Level Risk Metrics Map. An orange designation indicates warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk in the community.

While there are currently no additional restrictions required by the state at this phase, it is imperative that we all take steps to minimize transmission of COVID-19 in DuPage County in order to prevent further restrictions, as well as future cases, hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19.

On August 7, 2020, the Illinois Department of Public Health issued regulations requiring all businesses, services, facilities, or organizations open to the public must:

- **Require that any employees, customers, or other individuals on their premises over the age of two, cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when on-premises and unable to maintain at least a six-foot social distance.** While there are exceptions for those who cannot medically tolerate a face covering and for those who are actively eating or drinking, these exceptions are very narrow.
- **Gatherings of more than 50 people or gatherings of 50% or more of a building's maximum occupancy (if 50% of maximum occupancy is less than 50), are prohibited unless exempted by law or Executive Order.**
- **If your patrons violate these restrictions, you must advise them of their obligation to comply or ask them to leave the premises. If they do not, we ask that you call the police for assistance.**

Additionally, on August 25, 2020, The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity updated the Restaurant & Bar Establishment Safety Guidelines as follows:

- **Patrons 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.**
- **Patrons should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when picking up carry-out orders.**

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



**WEAR
A MASK**



**WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE**



**WASH
YOUR HANDS**

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

If you would like more information on mask use for restaurants and bars, visit

<https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/restaurantbars.pdf>.

For more information on these regulations and others, visit

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/governor-pritzkers-executive-orders-and-rules>.

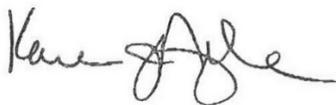
At this crucial time, we need your help. Your voluntary compliance with these regulations can help slow the spread of the virus in our communities and help our county remain in Phase 4 of the Governor's Reopening Plan. Having experienced the economic and other significant consequences of necessary measures during Phase 2 and 3 (such as sheltering in place, closed businesses, etc.), we know the importance of slowing the transmission of this virus, so we do not experience those restrictions again. **Please be advised that a failure to comply with and enforce the regulations of the Illinois Department of Public Health constitutes a Class A misdemeanor under Illinois law. Moreover, the DuPage County Health Department along with your respective municipality may use other mechanisms available to address violations of these rules.**

The DuPage County Health Department continues its commitment to keeping residents safe while also supporting local businesses in implementing safety measures for their employees and patrons. We understand this has been a challenging time for businesses, but if the COVID-19 indicators in region 8 (DuPage and Kane county) continue to increase, our region could be subject to stricter regulations such as those recently instituted in Region 7 (Will County and Kankakee County).

Now, more than ever, we need to continue working together to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and help minimize its impact on our lives. In addition to safe business practices, we all need to **follow the 3 Ws**—wear a mask, watch our distance, and wash our hands, as well as avoiding large gatherings—especially indoors. DCHD's [Stay Safe Signage Toolkit \(PDF\)](#) contains signage to help you continue to promote safe practices for your business.

If you have questions about the new rules or would like to request assistance interpreting the guidelines, please contact our **COVID-19 Business Response Team** at covid19business@dupagehealth.org.

Sincerely,



Karen J. Ayala, M.P.H.
Executive Director
DuPage County Health Department