

July 18, 2022

Dear DuPage County Mayors, Managers, and Business Partners,

As COVID-19 activity continues in our community, to help protect the health of your employees, DCHD encourages the following COVID-19 mitigation strategies:

- **Promote COVID-19 vaccinations.** DCHD strongly recommends all eligible individuals to be [up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccinations to help prevent hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19. Please continue to promote COVID-19 vaccination and boosting to your eligible staff. Visit the DCHD [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#) page for educational materials, information regarding our mobile vaccination clinic, and locations offering vaccination.
- **Masking when it is appropriate.** Employees who are COVID-19 cases or close contacts and are returning on day 6 after 5 days of isolation or quarantine respectively, should wear masks on days 6 through 10. Businesses/employers may also choose to continue to require masks for all employees and patrons (regardless of vaccination status) to adhere to prevention strategies. Businesses/employers should support anyone who chooses to wear a mask. The benefits of mask-wearing are well-established.
- **Staying home when sick.** Businesses should encourage employees to stay home when they are sick and seek medical care as needed, promote cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene.
- **Performing routine environmental cleaning and improving ventilation.** Cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas and surfaces as well as increasing total airflow are strongly recommended.

Practicing these precautions at your facility will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent interruptions to your business. Businesses may also continue to apply additional public health mitigations as they deem appropriate.

DCHD will continue to follow and adapt guidance from the Governor's Office, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additional resources are available at [COVID-19: Information for Businesses and Community Leaders](#).

Please note that in certain circumstances, under the authority outlined in [Section 2 of the Department of Public Health Act and Illinois Administrative Code – Part 690 Control of Communicable Diseases Code](#), and in partnership with businesses in our jurisdiction, DCHD will continue to conduct case investigations for COVID-19 and issue isolation and quarantine orders, as indicated.

- More -

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DCHD recommends that businesses continue to track COVID-19 cases internally and report COVID-19 cases using the [COVID-19 Case Reporting Form For DuPage County Businesses](#). Businesses/employers need to identify and respond to outbreak activity per [CDC](#) guidance, including review and application of mitigation measures, as indicated. To prioritize public health outreach and consultation for outbreaks, businesses/employers should contact DCHD when 1) **outbreak activity is identified, particularly large-scale (e.g., 10 or more COVID-19 outbreak-associated cases** in a core group within a 14-day period) with a completed [outbreak assessment questionnaire](#) or 2) for any questions; please email COVID19@dupagehealth.org or call 630-682-7400. Businesses/employers should **ensure that notification is sent to** identified close contacts when an exposure has occurred in the facility.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration,

DuPage County Health Department

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can our business continue to require masking?

Yes, businesses can maintain their own masking policies.

2. We work with [vulnerable populations](#); [should we still mask](#)?

Yes, as a precaution, persons working with individuals who are aged 65 years and older or who have underlying health conditions should wear a mask indoors.

3. Can employers exclude staff who are symptomatic?

Businesses should have policies in place to exclude individuals who are exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness.

Additional Resources:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/index.html>

OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus>

Illinois DCEO: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/default.aspx>

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