State’s Response to COVID-19

From the beginning of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Illinois’ response has been guided by data, science, and public health experts. Relying on the experts, Governor Pritzker took decisive action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save as many lives as possible.

Millions of Illinoisans working together by staying at home and following experts’ recommendations have proven these mitigation and social distancing measures effective so far, but modeling projects a rapid surge in new cases if all of these measures are immediately lifted.

We must follow a safe and deliberate path forward to reopen our economy, guided by public health and data, to keep Illinoisans as safe as possible.
# RESTORE ILLINOIS

**A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State**

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<td><strong>Rapid Spread</strong></td>
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<td>Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.</td>
<td>Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery. Illinoians are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating &amp; fishing while practicing social distancing.</td>
<td>Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</td>
<td>Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</td>
<td>The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.</td>
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**New case growth slows**
- Surge hospital capacity
- 10,000 tests per day statewide
- Testing for any symptomatic health care workers and first responders

**Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met**
- Testing for patients, health care workers and at-risk residents
- Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis

**Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met**
- Testing available in region regardless of symptoms or risk factors
- Contact tracing within 24 hours of diagnosis for more than 90% of cases

**Post-pandemic:**
Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors
Phase 3 Guidelines for Reopening Business and Returning People to Work Safety

Phase 3 guidelines span 10 different industry categories. Each set of guidelines includes common standards that are expected and encouraged among all employers and activity types, as well as workplace and program-specific guidelines. The State of Illinois has also developed business toolkits complete with signage, training checklists, and other resources to ensure business and activities are conducted in accordance with the latest and greatest public health recommendations.
The State’s Response to the COVID-19 Disaster

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity knows that businesses and workers are facing an unprecedented and challenging crisis. We are working closely with the Governor’s Office to address some of the hardest-hit industries with support.

Initiatives we’ve rolled out:
• $14 million Hospitality Industry Grant
• Downstate Stabilization Grant Fund
• Illinois Small Business Loan Fund
• Get Hired Illinois – an online job matching portal
• Ramped up customer support through our hotline, chat box, and email

Advocacy and Outreach:
• Advocating for additional federal dollars through the CARES Act
• Listening sessions and webinars with over 10,000 businesses in our state
• Virtual job fairs promoting the department’s workforce initiatives

Upcoming Opportunities
• The Governor’s Office, in coordination with DCEO, has proposed the COVID-19 Relief Fund that would provide grant opportunities for small businesses that will not open to full capacity before Phase 4 or Phase 5 in the FY21 budget. This program is pending a vote in the General Assembly.
Support for Businesses and Communities
Governor Pritzker announced Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Grants as part of Rebuild Illinois. This is a new program designed to accelerate work on planned public infrastructure projects around the state, but especially in underserved areas and Opportunity Zones. **The State is making $25 million available to all types of local governments** in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many are face lost revenues and losing the ability to finance these much needed projects.

- Funds can be used to support projects such as expansions of water and sewer systems and reinvestment to modernize schools and other public buildings.

- Grants will range in size between $500,000 and $5 million and will be awarded on a rolling basis. For this grant, 30% of application scoring will be based on community need, such as whether a project is in an underserved area or Opportunity Zone. To see a map of underserved areas, click [here](#). To see a map of Opportunity Zones, click [here](#).

- Fast-Track projects must meet shovel-ready criteria, as well as the minority business participation requirements of the State of Illinois' Business Enterprise Program. Grant awardees must be prepared to start work within 90-days of receiving funds.

- To apply for the grants, please visit the [Rebuild Illinois website](#). A full program Guidebook can be found [here](#).
**Downstate Small Business Stabilization Fund**

- This new $20 million program supports non-essential small businesses in suburban and rural counties across Illinois.

- The program provides grants up to $25,000 to small businesses in communities served by DCEO’s Office of Community Development.

- Eligible businesses with up to 50 employees can partner with local governments to obtain grants of up to $25,000 in working capital.

- The program redeployes Community Development Block Grant funds to support local small businesses.

- You can find out additional information and apply [here](#).
Rebuild Illinois Community Resources

Public Infrastructure
- The State has allocated $50,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $5,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are due on June 30th.
- Eligible projects include water, sewer, rail, utility, and other public infrastructure capital improvements that can provide an improved foundation for economic growth in Illinois communities.
- Eligible applicants are local units of government (cities, villages, towns).
- Full Program Guidebook Here.

Regional Economic Development
- The State has allocated $16,500,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $2,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Eligible projects are capital infrastructure improvements that will foster economic development and increase employment.
- Eligible applicants include local units of government, local economic development organizations, local non-profits, and private companies.
- Full Program Guidebook Here.

Shovel Ready Sites
- The State has allocated $13,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $2,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Provide funding for site preparation for underutilized properties that can transform into economic development opportunities across Illinois. This includes development of vacant buildings, parking lots, empty schools, or other underused sites.
- Eligible applicants include local units of government, local economic development organizations, local non-profits, and private companies.
- Full Program Guidebook Here.
For More Information

General Inquires: 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov

DCEO Regional Economic Development (Team RED):
CEO.TeamREDInquires@Illinois.gov –
Northwest Region Specific: Adrian.Madunic@illinois.gov

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment: CEO.OMEE@illinois.gov

Essential Business inquiries: contact 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov – Frequently Asked Questions

Business insurance coverage: contact the Department of Insurance (DOI) to file an online complaint:
https://mc.insurance.illinois.gov/messagecenter.nsf

Federal Small Business loans inquiries: contact (800) 659-2955, illinoisdo@sba.gov, or https://disasterloan.sba.gov

Governor’s Office COVID-19 Website: coronavirus.illinois.gov

DCEO COVID-19 Resources: www2.illinois.gov/dceo
COVID-19: Update from Erin Guthrie, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Q&A