



Prepare for Restore Illinois

The McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) cannot confirm when businesses, public facilities or events will be allowed to return to more normal activities, or exactly what restrictions or requirements will be put in place for each specific business, public entity, or event. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will be providing guidance in the near future. However, MCDH anticipates that all businesses, public entities, and public event planners should expect that most or all of the following core protective measures will need to be addressed in some way when they are permitted to reopen:

Social Distancing: Maintaining a six (6) foot separation between employees and among customers, attendees or participants is likely to become our norm for quite some time. You should evaluate your facility and identify ways that you can keep individuals at least 6 feet apart while working in or visiting your facility. If possible, limit the number of employees working in shared spaces, or individuals gathering in shared spaces. Consider creating teams of staff that work in designated areas of your facility, separate from other teams, which facilitates social distancing and helps identify potential exposures if one of your staff becomes ill. Posting signs, marking the floors with tape, and providing simple barriers are some of the ways that you can guide your staff, customers, participants or attendees to social distance. Creating a one-way traffic pattern for customers can help to prevent bottle necks where individuals are inadvertently forced into crowded areas.

Personal Protective Equipment: The requirement for simple masking, in enclosed public buildings, and/or when a 6 foot separation cannot be maintained, is highly probable. Additional personal protective equipment may include disposable gloves, and plexi-glass or similar barriers to protect cashiers, or to separate employees or individuals that must work closely or gather closely together. Assessing these needs, planning for your needs and ordering supplies as soon as possible is critical as delivery of supplies can be delayed.

Capacity: It is likely that businesses and other facilities open to the public will open with a cap on the number of individuals that can be present at any time, based upon the maximum capacity of the facility. If you are unsure of your maximum capacity, your local building department or fire department may be able to assist you. You may want to plan what your operation would need to look like at 25%, 50% and 75% capacity. You may need to assign staff to track the numbers of individuals entering and leaving your facility to assure that you do not exceed the target capacity.

Hand Washing: Adequate hand washing stations will need to be available for employees, customers, attendees and participants. When handwashing isn't immediately available, hand sanitizer should be available. Post signs that encourage frequent and thorough handwashing.

Employee Health: You should establish a process for monitoring the health of your staff. Consider purchasing a forehead reading thermometer (infrared thermometer) and developing a log where temperatures can be documented. Review the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and be prepared to screen your employees for those symptoms. You may need to ask your employees additional questions to ascertain whether household members are ill and/or have been exposed to COVID-19. You should follow all of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for determining when employees must be restricted from work, and when recovered employees may return to work.

Signs: Provide signage for your employees, your customers, your attendees or your participants so that they will understand procedures that you have put in place to keep them safe. Be sure that your expectations are clear, and that you have a plan to address instances when employees or customers do not comply with your procedures. Your response to non-compliant customers, participants or attendees should take into consideration the potential health and safety risks to your employees. Regarding use of face coverings, please refer to the FAQs for Businesses Concerning the Use of Face Coverings During COVID-19 by the Illinois Department of Human Rights at :

https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Documents/IDHR_FAQ_for_Businesses_Concerning_Use_of_Face_Coverings_During_COVID-19_Ver_2020511b%20copy.pdf

Clean and Disinfect: You will need to have sufficient cleaning and disinfecting supplies for work surfaces, equipment, and common touch surfaces. Consider ways to avoid common touch surfaces, i.e. contactless transactions. Develop a cleaning and disinfecting schedule. Work with your supplier to ensure that you can obtain the type and quantity of the cleaning/disinfecting supplies that are appropriate to your business. Make sure that staff follows the label directions to ensure their safety and the effectiveness of the disinfection. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Training: Create a training plan for your employees; you will likely need to modify existing procedures and/or add new procedures to meet new challenges. Develop policies around these new procedures so staff understands what is expected and how to respond when new challenges arise.

It is never too early to start planning. Evaluate the needs and challenges relevant to your specific operation. Work with your vendors to obtain the supplies that you will need. Although the availability of general PPE has improved, there may be delays.

Expect some trial and error; guidelines may need to be modified to be effective for you. Expect updates regarding restrictions and recommended guidelines as more information becomes available.

Take advantage of the wide variety of information that is already available. See the Departments website (www.mcdh.info) for example logs, signs, and other resources.