



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASE 4 GUIDELINES FAQ

Updated April 21, 2021

Currently, every region of the state is in Phase 4 of the five-phase Restore Illinois mitigation plan. On March 18, 2021 Governor Pritzker announced a metrics-based, vaccination-informed framework for Illinois to advance to Phase 5 of the state’s Restore Illinois Plan, our new normal. Any adjustments made to the current Phase 4 mitigations were made in coordination with business leaders and health experts, to ensure mitigations reflect the latest science and are consistent across industries. For additional information on Phase 4, the “Bridge Phase”, as well as the metrics used to determine when the State will enter the Bridge Phase and Phase 5, please see the [DPH Bridge Phase FAQ](#).

Table of Contents

Proof of Vaccination of Negative COVID-19 Test	1
Restaurant & Bars	3
Meetings, Conventions and Trade Shows	5
Outdoor Markets and Festivals	6
Sports and Fitness Centers	7
Indoor Recreation, Theaters, and other Entertainment Venues	8
Day Cares and Day Camps	9
Miscellaneous Questions	10

[Proof of Vaccination of Negative COVID-19 Test](#)

How are capacity limits outlined in the guidelines impacted for guests or patrons that are able to demonstrate immunity with proof of a vaccination or negative COVID-19 test?

- Individuals with proof of full vaccination plus 14 days or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) 1 to 3 days prior to an event or outing do not count against capacity limits. Patrons and attendees must show proof of completed vaccination series or recent negative COVID-19 test prior to entry and are subject to additional state face covering rules and social distancing guidelines of at least 6’ between individuals that are not in the same household or group even if they meet the criteria for demonstrated immunity.

Is this effective immediately, or not until the Bridge Phase?

- This is effective immediately.

Is there a standard way to verify vaccination and/or having received a negative COVID-19 test?

- Following full vaccination, individuals receive a vaccination card from the administrator of the vaccine. At this point, there is no uniform proof of vaccine or negative COVID-19 tests. Businesses should develop methods to evaluate authenticity of the documentation provided.

Does this apply to all sectors which have guidelines?

- Yes.

How are businesses supposed to track individuals who received vaccinations or a negative COVID-19 test?

- Businesses are responsible for managing their capacity and admission procedures within the venue to establish a protocol and system to verify proof of a vaccination plus 14 days or a negative COVID-19 test. Businesses should evaluate privacy concerns to implement a reliable method to manage proof of vaccinations or negative COVID-19 test. If a venue is being utilized by a company for an event, the event host is responsible for compliance.
- If businesses opt to establish a system of checking proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to permit greater capacity, businesses should evaluate all applicable data privacy laws for retention of the information. Businesses are not required to ask all patrons of proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test if they wish to remain within Restore Illinois Phase 4 and Bridge Phase limits.

What, if any, records should a business or organization retain to comply with the stated option that persons with proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test do not count towards capacity?

- Similar to displaying a driver's license to show proof of age, individuals would show proof of vaccination with their card or online confirmation of a negative COVID test prior to entry. Retaining a copy of the record is not a requirement of compliance with this option. Businesses that have registration options for an event, could have a self-reporting function on the registration that the individual would check a box during the registration and then at the time of the event, provide the proof prior to entering the event. Clear communication to attendees on this requirement and expectation to bring the documentation with them for the event is recommended. Please consult an attorney with any data privacy or HIPAA compliance questions.

Is there a cap on the number of vaccinated individuals an establishment can allow on the premises?

- Venues with fixed seating such as a theater, restaurant, and sporting venue are limited by the requirement to maintain at least 6' social distancing between groups. Venues without fixed seating need to implement a method to ensure that groups maintain 6' social distancing within the space.

- For both fixed seating and non-fixed seating venues, capacities may also not exceed the maximum allowable capacity otherwise indicated by applicable codes (e.g. fire code) if other social distancing measures are feasible.

If an individual has a proven immunity through proof vaccinations or a recent negative COVID-19 test, can those individuals intermingle with people outside their group without social distancing?

- No. The concept of permitting individuals to not count towards the capacity limits does not permit the individuals to also mix within the venue, event, or other industry space and not follow the other restrictions.

Restaurant & Bars

What is the capacity for indoor dining, and when is it permissible?

- In Phase 4, Capacity is limited based on arranging tables so that seated patrons are a minimum six feet away from patrons at other tables (previously tables needed to be spaced 6 feet apart; now the seatbacks at one table must be 6 feet from the seatbacks at the other table).

Can bars and restaurants increase the size of their tables if some or all of the guests are vaccinated or present proof of a negative COVID-19 test?

- Yes. The party size set forth in the guidance (no more than 10 persons) can be increased to more than 10 because the individuals who provide proof of the vaccination or a negative COVID test do not count towards maximum of 10 persons per party at a restaurant and/or bar.

Can bars and restaurants' place tables closer than six feet apart if some or all of the guests at adjacent tables are vaccinated or present proof of a negative COVID-19 test?

- No. Tables must continue to be spaced in accordance with the dining guidelines (6' from chair backs).

For indoor spaces that accommodate eating/drinking, how does this affect the standing area capacity established in the guidelines?

- As long as the establishment operators can manage the standing area to ensure parties are placed at standing tables, not mixing and spaced at least 6' apart, then the standing area capacity (25%) can be increased with individuals that provide the proof of vaccination or negative COVID test.

What is considered a “room” for indoor dining purposes?

- A room is a separate and distinct area within an establishment that has transitional elements between the spaces (such as plexiglass, doors, walls, etc.).

Do patrons need to wear face coverings inside the restaurant or bar?

- Yes. Patrons should wear face coverings as soon as they enter the premises and keep them on except while eating and drinking.

What is considered “outdoor dining”?

A dining or drinking area is considered an outdoor dining or drinking area if the area meets any of the following criteria:

1. Located on the rooftop of a building or within establishment with retractable roof (should remain open during hours of operation of outdoor dining and/or drinking); or
2. Outdoor space connected to or located on the site of a restaurant, grocery store, health or fitness center, hotel, golf club, or other social club with a food establishment license; or
3. Indoor space where 50% or more of a wall can be removed via the opening of windows, doors, or panels provided that dining tables are within 8-ft from such opening; or
4. Any other outdoor dining and drinking areas authorized by local governments provided that food and drinks are prepared by licensed food or liquor establishments and that proper social distancing of 6-ft between designated customer tables and/or other seating areas is observed and parties are of 6 persons or fewer.

Is an outdoor structure such as a dome, tent, or igloo permitted as “outdoor dining” under the guidance?

- Yes. Below outlines the guidance for outdoor dining structures and businesses should consult the Illinois Fire Marshal and local fire department for specific guidance on Fire Codes for these structures:

Tents and Other Outdoor Structures for Multiple Tables/Separate Dining Groups

Provided they comply with all required municipal and/or local liquor commission restrictions and approvals, temporary outdoor structures, including tents, are permissible if they comply with the following requirements:

- Temporary outdoor structures must have at least two of the sides open to provide adequate air flow;
- Patrons inside a temporary outdoor structure must be seated, and tables must be spaced a minimum of six feet apart;
- All structural materials should have a fire-resistant certification or flame certification showing material is fire-rated or noncombustible;
- Restaurants will need inclement weather plans in writing and trained staff to prevent any injuries in storms, snow, or other unsafe situations.

Tents or Domes/Igloos for Single Table Dining Groups

- Single party only (subject to mitigation restrictions on dining party size);
- The structure must maintain air circulation at all times, for example via an open door, two opposing window/side openings or an open roof panel or panels. Interactions with waitstaff should be brief and all parties must have masks on during these exchanges.
- Sanitize the chairs and table after each use; and
- Servers and other waitstaff to minimize their time in the structure, including instituting measures such as a QR Code menu.

Heating Devices

Businesses should consult with local municipalities and ensure compliance with local and state fire codes to determine if heating devices are permitted within a temporary outdoor structure,

and if so, how to operate the device within the structure. Assuming the heating device is permitted, establishments should follow these additional safety considerations to ensure responsible operations:

- Outdoor spaces with heating devices must keep devices away from combustible materials, such as tents, at all times.
- Enclosed areas with heating devices must have clearly marked entrances and exits.
- Businesses must have sufficient fire extinguishers to cover indoor and outdoor spaces.

Can bars and restaurants allow walk-in patrons for outdoor dining?

- Bars and restaurants should take reservations for all parties for contact tracing purposes. However, bars and restaurants can accept walk-ins provided they record the contact information of at least one person in the party – this is considered a walk-up reservation.

Bars and restaurants are required to utilize a reservation system for patrons. How long should the business retain the reservation record?

- The state recommends businesses maintain a copy of the reservation list for a minimum of 28 days. This will enable the business and state/local health officials to contact the patrons in the event of exposure to COVID-19.

Is live music permissible?

- Live music is permitted but employees and performers should follow social distancing guidelines, keeping the maximum distance possible from each other and from customers. Performers should wear face coverings where possible and the use of barriers between singers and customers and employees during the performance is strongly encouraged.
- Dancing and singing by patrons (i.e. karaoke) should not be permitted.

Meetings, Conventions and Trade Shows

What are the capacity limits for venues hosting meetings, conventions and/or trade shows?

- Venues hosting meetings, conventions and trade shows may operate under the following capacity restrictions:
 - Venues with overall capacity under 200 people may operate at the lesser of 50 people, or 50% of the overall capacity.
 - Venues with overall capacity more than 200 people may operate at the lesser of 250 people, or 25% of the overall capacity.

Social Events

What is considered a social event?

- Social events include, but are not limited to, weddings, bridal & baby showers, receptions, birthday parties, proms, picnics & barbecues, and funerals.

What are the capacity limits for social events?

- Venues hosting indoor weddings and social events are limited to lesser of 50 guests with OR 50% of overall room capacity and outdoor social events are limited to the lesser of 100 guests or 50% capacity

- A venue with multiple rooms may NOT split one wedding party into multiple rooms.
- An outdoor wedding venue may not place multiple tents 30 feet apart to accommodate multiple groups of 100 people for one wedding
- Dance floors should remain closed

What about restrictions for school graduation ceremonies?

- Schools should follow the seated spectator event [guidance](#), including that capacity is limited to 25% of the seated capacity for indoor venues with an overall capacity greater than 200 people. In Phase 4, for indoor venues with a capacity of less than 200 people, capacity is the lesser of 50 people or 50% capacity.

How does the guidance apply to end of school year celebrations such as prom?

- Schools should consider prom alternatives, and for end of school celebrations should consider outdoor events that allow for social distancing
- In Phase 4, as with other social events, indoor capacity is limited to lesser of 50 guests OR 50% of overall room capacity and outdoor social events are limited to the lesser of 100 guests or 50% capacity.
- Participants need to have their face covering on for the event, only remove the face covering when eating or drinking.
- Dance floors at social events are not permitted at this time
- Venue operators should have a plan to limit congregation and crowding during entry/exit and throughout duration of the event
- Venue operators and event organizers should discourage standing and congregating in any areas
- Tables should be limited to 10 attendees and spaced so that attendees at separate tables are seated at least 6 feet apart

Does the gathering prohibition extend to internal office meetings and trainings?

- No. However, to the extent that the employee training sessions and meetings can be performed virtually, please do so.
- Internal employee meetings and trainings may be held on-site, for company purposes. On-site trainings and/or meetings for employees, must follow all guidelines related to social distancing and participants must have masks on during the sessions. The tables should be spread out so that the participants are greater than 6' apart.

Outdoor Markets and Festivals

Are outdoor festivals and fairs permitted in Phase 4?

- Yes; outdoor festivals, fairs, car shows, etc. should follow the Outdoor Markets and Festivals Guidelines.
- Capacity is limited to 15 people per 1,000 square feet.
- Event operators should design a plan to ensure social distancing throughout the event and designate employee(s) to monitor capacity limits and social distancing through the venue, including entrance, egress, and other locations, especially indoor spaces, where attendees are likely to congregate.

- Live music is permissible, but dance areas should be closed.
- Face coverings should be worn at all times by patrons, staff and vendors.

Are flea markets and farmers markets permissible?

- Yes, flea markets and farmers markets should follow these extra precautions:
 - For both indoor and outdoor markets, venue capacity should not exceed 25%, or 15 people per 1,000 square feet.
 - Indoor markets should open windows and doors for fresh air flow, when possible.
 - Face coverings should always be worn, whether indoor or outdoor.
 - Markets that offer food and beverage should follow the [indoor and outdoor dining guidelines](#)
 - Markets should have hand sanitizer available for customers upon entering the flea market and/or available at various locations within the flea market.
 - Vendors are encouraged to use an impermeable barrier or a second table between vendors and customers.
 - Markets are encouraged to space out booths/exhibits to limit customers from congregating.
 - Markets should have employees monitoring the venue to ensure customers are social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Are amusement parks allowed to reopen?

- Yes; Amusement parks should operate at no more than 25% capacity.
- Park operators should design a plan to ensure social distancing within the park property, especially at locations where visitors are likely to congregate.
- Ensure at least 6-ft. between seats on rides occupied by park guests that are not members of the same household or party.

Sports and Fitness Centers

Can individuals and/or teams play competitive games out of state?

- Out of state travel is permissible for sports that are permitted participate in Level 4 activities pursuant to the All Sports Policy. Please refer to that policy to determine is out of state travel is permissible.

Do people have to wear face coverings in health and fitness centers if they can stay six feet apart?

- Face coverings should be worn at all times when inside a health and fitness center, including while exercise. Face coverings should also be worn when outside if unable to maintain six feet social distancing from another individual.

Do athletes playing indoor sports have to wear face coverings even if they can stay six feet apart?

- Yes. Athletes should wear face coverings at all times when playing indoor sports, with the exception of when wearing a mask could lead to injury as set forth in the All Sports Policy

- Spectators should wear face coverings at all times when inside the sports venue

What about when playing outdoor sports?

- Face coverings are proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and are encouraged to be worn at all times
- Athletes playing outdoor sports should wear a face covering whenever six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained
- Spectators for outdoor events should wear face coverings whenever six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained

Do athletes need to be tested before participating in sports?

- Individuals who participate in higher-risk sports should be tested no less than twice per week, and preferably as close to possible to competition: within 72 hours of play if receiving PCR testing or within 24 hours of play if receiving antigen testing.
- All individuals that come into close contact with participants, coaches, trainers, and other individuals should be tested for COVID-19 prior to competition
- Individuals younger than 13, or individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, do not need to be tested
- Testing should be conducted regularly, at least twice per week for higher-risk sports, and regardless of signs or symptoms or whether the athlete has come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19

Do non-competitive dance classes and lessons fall under the All Sports Guidelines?

- Yes.

Can you apply the 50-person gathering limit to 5K or 10K races?

- Yes. 5K or 10K races can be classified as outdoor recreation and follow those posted guidelines. Applying the principle to running races, they can be held if the start times are staggered enough so that the groups do not mix with one another regardless of the individuals pace running and/or walking. The minimum guidelines should be staggered starts of 30 minutes and the start and finish points should be different locations to avoid gatherings over 50 people. Municipalities and local public health departments are provided discretion in methods to implement the remainder of the guidelines for youth and recreational sports ([link here](#))

Indoor Recreation, Theaters, and other Entertainment Venues

Can trampoline parks and indoor playgrounds operate?

- Yes; indoor playgrounds and trampoline parks may be open and follow the capacity restrictions for indoor recreation, which allows the lesser of 50 people or 50% capacity of the facility while in Phase 4.

Are theatres permitted in Phase 4?

- Yes; indoor and outdoor movie theaters are permitted to be open in Phase 4.
- Indoor venues with capacity of less than 200 people may have the lesser of 50 people or 50% capacity.

- Indoor venues with capacity of more than 200 people may operate at no more than 25% capacity.
- Outdoor theaters and performing arts venues should operate at 25% of overall theater or performance space capacity.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of occupied seats or tables between use by different groups or parties, and again at closing time.
- Theaters and performing arts [guidelines](#)

What about outdoor concerts that do not have seats, like concerts in the park?

- Concerts in the park are permissible, and should follow the capacity restrictions set forth in the outdoor festival guidelines, which is 15 people per 1,000 square feet.

Are drive-in theaters and concerts permissible in Phase 4?

- Yes. In addition to following the safety and sanitation procedures set forth in the [theatre and performing arts guidelines](#), drive-in theater and concert venues should follow these additional guidelines:
 - Oversized vehicles are not permitted (buses, RVs, limousines).
 - Venues must obtain the name, address, phone number and email address of at least one person per vehicle.
 - Tickets should be purchased on-line or over the phone in advance of the performance.
 - Venues should provide landmarks for attendees to easily identify where there are/were in the venue.
 - If patrons will exit the vehicle (concerts), vehicles must be parked in every third parking spot.
 - Individuals exiting the vehicle must remain in one space immediately adjacent to their vehicle.
 - Spaces should be clearly outlined (e.g. parking cones, parking stop, etc.) for ease of enforcement of social distancing measures between spaces.
 - Tents are not permitted.
 - Venue staff should monitor area to ensure groups are not congregating.
 - If patrons will remain in the vehicle (movie theaters), vehicles must be parked in every other spot.
 - Individuals must wear masks when outside of their vehicle or designated space.

Day Cares and Day Camps

What guidance will day camps need to follow in Phase 4?

- Daycares licensed by DCFS should continue to follow [those guidelines](#).
- Group sizes should be limited to 15 participants to 1 adult.
- Operators need to follow the IDPH guidelines on any water-based activities to follow IDPH guidance.
- Guidance on holding activities requiring physical exertion and/or exertion of voice outdoors moved to best practice.

Are overnight camps permissible?

- Yes. Camps should follow the updated guidelines for Day and Overnight Camps.

What water-based activities are permissible at camps?

- Camps should follow the [swimming facility guidelines](#) set forth by IDPH. Camps may also offer non-swim related activities, such as water balloons, sprinklers, and hoses. Slip-and-slides and similar type activities where multiple participants are in repeated contact with the equipment should not be used. Camps should ensure each participant has his/her own towel, and proper handwashing hygiene should be observed before and after the activity.

Are daycares permissible in areas under mitigation?

- Yes. Daycares licensed by DCFS should continue to follow [those guidelines](#).

What about day camps not licensed by DCFS?

- Day camps not licensed by DCFS can operate in group sizes of 30 or fewer.
- Mitigation measures do not impact day camp guidance.

Miscellaneous Questions

Is there an exemption to the requirement that individuals wear a face covering when within six feet of other program participants?

- No. Face coverings are required unless an individual has a medical condition that prevents him/her from doing so. To establish the medical condition an individual should consider obtaining a doctor's note. The exemption is for individuals, not for entire business/programs. Local health departments do not issue exemptions.

What is the guidance for churches and other places of worship?

- Religious organizations and houses of worship are strongly encouraged to consult and follow the recommended practices and guidelines from the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#).
- As set forth in the IDPH [guidelines](#), the recommendation for capacity within a church or other place of worship is as follows: (a) for facilities with an overall capacity limit of less than 200 people, the capacity should be the lesser of 50 people or 50% capacity; or (b) for facilities with an overall capacity limit of 200 people or more, or when outdoors, current guidelines recommend gatherings of no more than 25% capacity.
- Religious organizations are strongly encouraged to take steps to ensure social distancing, the use of face coverings, and implementation of other public health measures
- The IDPH guidance provides additional guidance on a variety of issues including: individual control measures and screening, cleaning protocols, and singing and group recitation.

Are there restrictions for funeral homes?

- Funeral home operators should follow the indoor group size restriction of the lesser of 50 people or 50% capacity of the room.