



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

RESTORE ILLINOIS PHASE 4 GUIDELINES FAQ

Updated May 26, 2021

On May 14, 2021 every region of the state moved into the Phase 4 “Bridge Phase” of the Restore Illinois mitigation plan. Additionally, on May 17, 2021 the Governor signed Executive Order 2021-10 that loosened the face covering requirement for fully vaccinated individuals. 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](#).

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General Bridge Phase Questions

Who is still required to wear a face covering?

- Pursuant to the [Bridge Phase Executive Order](#), individuals who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public space and unable to maintain a six-foot social distance. This requirement applies whether in an indoor space, such as a store, or in a public outdoor space where maintaining a six-foot social distance is not always possible
- Generally, fully vaccinated individuals need to wear face coverings required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance
- Additionally, all individuals, including those fully vaccinated, are required to wear a face covering when:
 - On public transportation and in transportation hubs;

- In congregate facilities such as correctional facilities and homeless shelters; and
- In healthcare settings

Do fully vaccinated individuals have to social distance?

- Fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to social distance from others, unless required by required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance

Can a municipality or business owner still require face coverings?

- Yes. Local jurisdictions and business owners may impose face covering requirements that are stricter than those contained in the Bridge Phase Executive Order

Can establishments immediately begin to follow the Bridge Phase Executive Order and allow fully vaccinated individuals into their establishments without a mask?

- Yes. Establishments may also continue to require masks if they so choose

Do employers still need to perform temperature checks on employees?

- Although temperature checks are encouraged, they are not required
- Employees should self-screen prior to going to work, and not report to work if they are exhibiting COVID symptoms

What about mid-shift screenings?

- Mid-shifts screenings are encouraged, but not required
- Employees who begin exhibiting COVID symptoms at work should notify their employer

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. Those individuals who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing guidelines of at least 6' between individuals that are not in the same household.

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 of unvaccinated individuals. Venues without fixed seating need to implement a method to ensure that groups maintain 6' social distancing between groups of unvaccinated individuals.
- 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.

Restaurant & Bars

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

- In the Bridge Phase, capacity continues to be 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).
- Standing areas located inside are limited to 30% capacity

- Standing areas located outside are limited to 50% capacity

If a restaurant wants to admit only fully vaccinated people, could they operate at 100% capacity without social distancing?

- Yes. The Bridge Phase limits indoor dining capacity only by the space necessary to maintain physical distancing and party size. If limited to only fully vaccinated patrons who are not required to adhere to physical distancing, the establishment can reach 100% capacity. The establishment would need some method of verifying individuals' vaccination status

Will the state's proof of negative test provision as it relates to diners not counting against occupancy or table size remain in effect?

- Yes. Such individuals will not count toward the capacity limit but will need to adhere to physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others not in their party. The establishment will also need some method of verifying individuals' recent tests.

How does the EO impact standing area capacity?

- Capacity in standing areas is still capped according to the limits for the Bridge Phase. However, fully vaccinated individuals do not count toward capacity limits so establishments may exceed the stated limited for the Bridge Phase.

If a restaurant or bar had a standing area that was only for vaccinated guests, could those guests be moving around and talking to different parties in the area? For instance, at a cocktail reception or wedding.

- Yes. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may relax physical distancing.

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?

- Tables of fully vaccinated individuals can be spaced less than 6 feet apart. But a table of unvaccinated individuals should be spaced 6 feet apart from another table

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?

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear face coverings, unless required to by the bar or restaurant
- Any individual who is not fully vaccinated who is able to medically tolerate a face covering is required to wear a face covering when unable to maintain a six-foot social distance, except while eating and drinking

Can restaurants use presets in the Bridge Phase?

- Yes. These items should be regularly cleaned and disinfected pursuant to CDC guidance

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.
- Dance floors may be open
 - Fully vaccinated individuals may dance without masks and without physical distancing
 - Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and maintain physical distancing as much as possible while dancing, especially indoors
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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 at 60% 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 can host up to 250 guests
- Venues hosting outdoor weddings may can host up to 500 guests

Is dancing permitted at social events?

- Yes. Dance floors may be open
 - Fully vaccinated individuals may dance without masks and without physical distancing
 - Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and maintain physical distancing as much as possible while dancing, especially indoors

What about restrictions for school graduation ceremonies?

- Schools should follow the seated spectator event [guidance](#),

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.

Markets and Festivals

Are outdoor festivals and fairs permitted in Phase 4?

- Yes; outdoor festivals, fairs, car shows, etc. should follow the Markets and Festivals Guidelines.
- Capacity for outdoor festivals is limited to 30 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
- Dance floors may be open
 - Fully vaccinated individuals may dance without masks and without physical distancing
 - Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and maintain physical distancing as much as possible while dancing, especially indoors

Are flea markets and farmers markets permissible?

- Yes, flea markets and farmers markets should follow these extra precautions:
 - For indoor markets, venue capacity should not exceed 15 people per 1,000 square feet.

- For outdoor markets, venue capacity should not exceed 30 people per 1,000 square feet
- Indoor markets should open windows and doors for fresh air flow, when possible.
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- 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 60% capacity.
- Park operators should design a plan to ensure social distancing within the park property, especially at locations where visitors are likely to congregate.

Are parades permissible?

- Yes. Parades should follow the Markets and Festivals Guidelines
- Participants and spectators who are not fully vaccinated should maintain social distancing and wear face coverings at all time when unable to maintain social distancing

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?

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear face coverings, unless required to by the fitness center
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should wear face coverings at all times within a health and fitness center, except when able to maintain six feet social distance
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should consider wearing a face covering while exercising indoors, even when able to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others, to help reduce the risk of airborne transmission of the virus

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 are not fully vaccinated 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.

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 100 people or 50% capacity of the facility while in the Bridge Phase.

Are capacity limits for theatres in the Bridge Phase still based on the size of the venue?

- No. Capacity for all theatres in the Bridge Phase is 60% capacity
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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 30 people per 1,000 square feet.

Are drive-in theaters and concerts permissible in the Bridge Phase?

- 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 the Bridge Phase?

- Daycares licensed by DCFS should continue to follow [those guidelines](#).
- Group sizes should be limited to 30 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 DCSF can operate in group sizes of 30 or fewer.
- Mitigation measures do not impact day camp guidance.

Can camps that have kitchens and provide meals use reusable dishes:

- Yes, provided the dishes are properly sanitized in accordance with CDC guidelines

Miscellaneous Questions

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](#)