



What does COVID-19 Mitigation Order 2020-1 require?

The Order, in alignment with [Tier I mitigation](#), requires:

- a. Restaurants and bars within the jurisdiction of Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) must close at 11 p.m. Central Time, and must remain closed until 6 a.m. Central Time the following day.
- b. All restaurants and bars within the jurisdiction of Cook County Department of Public Health must suspend indoor on-premises consumption.
- c. All customers of establishments within the jurisdiction of Cook County Department of Public Health that are eating or drinking on premises must be seated at outdoor tables spaced at least six feet apart. Multiple parties may not be seated at a single table.
- d. Customers of establishments within the jurisdiction of Cook County Department of Public Health who are not yet seated at a table must wait off premises and, when waiting, must not congregate in groups larger than the party with whom they are dining. Standing, congregating, or dancing on premises is not permitted.
- e. Each party must have a reservation, even if made on-site, so that the restaurant or bar has contact information to reach every party for contact tracing if needed.
- f. Meetings and social events are limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of overall room capacity.
- g. Attendance lists for meetings and social events must be kept for contact tracing.
- h. Party buses are not permitted.
- i. Gaming venues and casinos must close, and gaming terminals must stop operating, between 11 p.m. Central Time until 6 a.m. Central Time the following day.
- j. Gaming venues and casinos are limited to 25% capacity.
- k. Gaming venues and casinos must follow the mitigation strategies a.) through e.) above for restaurants and bars for those portions of their facilities.

Are these new measures?

No. The Order restates the state's [Tier I mitigation measures](#), and cites the County Code that gives us authority to enforce the steps that have already been put in place.

Why issue this order?

The Tier I mitigations were implemented in the face of surging COVID-19 transmission in our region. The order helps us, and our local partners, to work with businesses to gain compliance with the mitigation actions that have been outlined by the state.

What is Tier I mitigation?

Tiered mitigation guidance was developed as part of the [Governor's Restore Illinois Resurgence Plan](#), and are applied if a region is experiencing increasing positivity rates and/or increases in COVID-19 hospital admissions or reduction in hospital capacity. The mitigation requirements in the CCDPH order are the same as those included in the Tier I mitigation in the Resurgence Plan.





Does CCDPH work alone to enforce Tier I mitigation requirements?

No. Municipalities, local law enforcement, and health departments all have a role in enforcing these requirements. We are working with those partners to address violations and to gain compliance.

What gives CCDPH the authority to enforce the Tier I mitigation requirements?

Authority is delegated to CCDPH by the Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the Illinois Public Health Act (20 ILCS 2305/1.1 et seq.); the Illinois Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-15 et seq.); and the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances (Chapter 38, Article II et seq.), and makes clear the role and authority of local leadership and CCDPH to enforce the steps that have been put in place.

How does CCDPH act to enforce the mitigation?

CCDPH works in partnership with local municipalities and law enforcement to address violations. We respond to complaints from partners and the public, and support municipalities in the actions they take. In cases where CCDPH takes enforcement action, a notice addressing the violation will be given to the business. In the event establishments do not comply, CCDPH can work with municipalities or the State's Attorney Office to take next steps.

If businesses don't comply, what are the penalties?

Violations of this Order shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-38. This section of the ordinance provides that businesses that violate the order may be subject to a Class B misdemeanor, arrest, a fine of \$1,000 per offense and/or enjoined from further actions in violation of the order. In addition to this, local governments within the CCDPH jurisdiction may have other enforcement actions they have authority to take, such as licensing suspensions or fines, for failure to comply with the CCDPH order and/or the Executive Order.

Will the mitigation requirements in Tier I really help address rising rates of COVID-19 transmission?

Studies have indicated that risk for contracting COVID-19 increases in crowded indoor spaces. Additionally, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigation found that people diagnosed with COVID were twice as likely to have eaten at a restaurant than people who tested negative for the infection.

What if I have questions about businesses in suburban Cook County?

The CCDPH COVID-19 hotline (708-836-4755) and email (ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org) are available Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer general questions about COVID-19, or to express concerns about businesses not complying with mitigation orders. Residents are encouraged to call their local law enforcement or municipal leadership, as well.