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CCDPH Issues Order To Support Tier I Mitigation Enforcement

FOREST PARK, IL –Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) today is taking steps to encourage compliance with the state’s [Tier I mitigation guidance](#) for restaurants, bars and other businesses where people congregate indoors.

“We all have a part to play in curbing the spread of COVID-19,” said CCDPH Senior Medical Officer and Co-lead Dr. Rachel Rubin. “We have seen a rapid increase in cases across the region, state and country, and need everyone – local leaders, law enforcement, businesses, and the public – to comply with the mitigations.”

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

The order issued by CCDPH does not impose any additional mitigation requirements. It clarifies the authority 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.

The Order, in alignment with Tier I mitigation, requires:

- Restaurants and bars within the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health must close at 11 p.m. Central Time, and must remain closed until 6:00 a.m. Central Time the following day.
- All restaurants and bars within the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health must suspend indoor on-premises consumption.
- All customers of establishments within the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health 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.
- Customers of establishments within the jurisdiction of the 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.

- 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.
- Meetings and social events are limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of overall room capacity.
- Attendance lists for meetings and social events must be kept for contact tracing.
- Party buses are not permitted.
- Gaming venues and casinos must close, and gaming terminals must stop operating, between 11:00 p.m. Central Time until 6:00 a.m. Central Time the following day.
- Gaming venues and casinos are limited to 25% capacity.
- Gaming venues and casinos must follow the mitigation strategies a through e for restaurants and bars for those portions of their facilities.

“Suburban Cook County – Region 10 – has seen nine days of positivity increases,” said CCDPH Senior Medical Officer and Co-Lead Dr. Kiran Joshi. “Hospital admissions have increased for the past eight days. It is imperative that all of us wash our hands, wear masks, watch our distance, and, please – follow the Tier I mitigation requirements.”

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.

For more information about Tier 1 Mitigation Guidance, visit the State of Illinois website at: www.coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan. To see regional metrics for the state of Illinois, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19.

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