

May 6, 2020

Governor Announces "Restore Illinois" Plan to Reopen Illinois in Phases

Yesterday, Illinois Governor Pritzker announced his plan to reopen Illinois in five phases which is called "Restore Illinois." The plan divides Illinois into 4 defined regions, and establishes five phases to reopen Illinois, starting with Phase 1 (Rapid Spread) and concluding with Phase 5 (Illinois Restored).

According to the Governor, the entire State of Illinois is currently in Phase 2 (Flattening). By the end of the month, some regions may move to Phase 3 (Recovery) which would allow the reopening of manufacturing, offices, retail, salons, and other businesses with certain capacity and other safety precautions in place. Note that restaurants and bars would not be allowed to open for on-premises service until Phase 4 (Revitalization).

The five phases of reopening for each health region are described in the plan as follows:

Phase 1 – Rapid Spread: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital is high or rapidly increasing. Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.

Phase 2 – Flattening: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital beds and ICU beds increases at an ever slower rate, moving toward a flat and even a downward trajectory. Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery. Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home, and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating and fishing while practicing social distancing. To varying degrees, every region is experiencing flattening as of early May.

Phase 3 – Recovery: The rate of infection among those tested, the number of patients admitted to the hospital, and the number of patients needing ICU beds is stable or declining. Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. All gatherings limited to 10 or fewer people are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 4 – Revitalization: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline. All gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the IDPH. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 5 – Illinois Restored: With a vaccine or highly effective treatment widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period, the economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools, and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find a lot of information provided about the Restore Illinois Plan on the [State of Illinois website Coronavirus page](#). Specific Restore Illinois plan documents are linked below.

- [Restore Illinois - Full Plan](#)
- [Restore Illinois - One Page Summary](#)
- [Restore Illinois - Phases Chart](#)
- [Restore Illinois - Regions Map](#)
- [Restore Illinois - A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State 1 - Download](#)