

June 5, 2020

Gurnee Business Partner:

Since Phase 3 began on May 29, Gurnee businesses have demonstrated the resourcefulness, creativity, and diligence that have made you so successful! You ramped up quickly to welcome back clients and customers, and when prudence dictated that you ramp back down temporarily during a period of civil unrest in our nation, you did that too. I'm proud to say that Gurnee is safe and sound, and we are open for business!

[Phase 3 Guidelines & Toolkits](#) provide helpful information to operate safely, in compliance with State requirements. The northeast region is currently on track to move to Phase 4 at the end of June (subject to change), so stay tuned to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) [Restore Illinois dashboard](#) and the [Lake County Data Hub](#) to plan ahead for continued recovery.

To our restaurants: Your customers are thrilled to be back on your patios...your parking lots...sidewalks...and yards...for alfresco dining! After the first few busy days, many of you shared observations and suggestions for improvement. The Village of Gurnee [Temporary Outdoor Dining Guidelines](#) have been modified to reflect the following additions:

Cocktails-to-Go: Consistent with State Liquor Control Commission [guidelines](#), cocktails-to-go are now approved temporarily in the Village of Gurnee. All State guidance must be strictly followed.

Outdoor Wait Stations: Several restaurants requested the ability to place a "wait stand" in the outdoor dining area, to reduce the time spent by wait staff returning indoors repeatedly to fulfill orders. If staffed at all times, and for the exclusive use of restaurant personnel, these wait stations will be permitted to include liquor storage/service. Patrons may not approach these stands to order alcoholic beverages; all liquor service and consumption must be at tables, served by waitstaff. The Guidelines continue to prohibit outdoor bars.

Tents: It is the Village's intent at this time to allow tents to remain up for outdoor dining beyond the end of Phase 3. This approval will be subject to public safety considerations and adequate parking for restaurant patrons as well as those of neighboring businesses.

As a reminder to all businesses, the face covering requirement is mandated by Illinois Executive Order [2020-32](#), and Gurnee is complying. Free masks are available to Gurnee small businesses at Village Hall if you'd like to have these on hand for customers. Compliance is always the goal; however, if a customer refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave your premises and if they don't, the Gurnee Police Department can be called, and it will be handled as a trespassing charge.

Other resources you may find useful:

- The Village recognizes the International Building Code (IBC) as a source for calculating occupancy limits. Per the IBC, for example: retail capacity at 50% would allow 15 persons per 1,000 square feet. As an alternative, the [DCEO Alternative Occupancy Restriction](#) guidance may also be used.
- Lake County Health Department [weekly conference calls](#); local businesses are welcome to join.
- [Sources for purchasing](#) personal protective and cleaning supplies.
- [CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidance](#).
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently released guidance on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness ([here](#)) and review ([here](#)) and a [PPP Loan Program Report](#), which details how PPP funds have been spent so far. PPP funds are still available; find a lender [here](#).

The Village Board, staff, and I are grateful to the Gurnee business community for your perseverance in the face of these incredibly challenging circumstances. Please keep doing what you do best, and we'll be there to support you!

Sincerely,



Kristina M. Kovarik
Mayor, Village of Gurnee