



McHenry and Lake County Restaurants and Bars: We're Calling on You to Help Keep Our Communities Healthy and On Track Toward Recovery

Our North Suburban Region (Region 9, McHenry and Lake Counties) is counting on you to help protect and resume the lifestyles that make our counties special places to live, work and visit. McHenry County Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson and Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center Executive Director Mark Pfister are calling on you – the McHenry and Lake Counties' restaurant and bar industry – to be leaders in promoting and adhering to state-mandated COVID-19 preventative measures.

As Illinois sees increasing rates of COVID-19 infections across the state, bars and restaurants play a vital role in slowing the spread of the virus and keeping our economy on track toward recovery. Preventative measures like wearing masks, physical distancing and frequent hand washing are not only critical to our communities' health and safety, they are the tools that will allow restaurants and bars to remain open.

As a reminder, Illinois remains in [Phase 4](#) of the State's five-phase recovery plan. This means that face coverings are required for all restaurant and bar staff and patrons (except when eating/drinking), a six-foot distance is required between tables and capacity/party size restrictions remain in place.

Standing areas in bars need to be restricted to a maximum of 25% of the allowed capacity, or where that capacity is not established, to no more than 15 people per 1,000 square feet. In addition, bar staff must ensure six-foot social distancing between unrelated parties.

Moving forward depends on a sustained reduction in new COVID-19 cases, among other criteria. Rising infection rates and hospitalizations could move our North Suburban Region *back* to Phase 3, which could mean more restrictions on indoor and outdoor dining and reductions in permitted gathering sizes.

Help our Region stay on track! Here's what you can do:

- Enforce mask requirements for staff and patrons

- Space tables at least six feet apart and adhere to capacity restrictions
- Restrict standing areas to 25% capacity and ensure social distancing between unrelated parties
- Promote frequent handwashing and sanitize surfaces often

Masking is Good for Business!

Customers want to know that they will be safe dining out. Enforcing mask wearing and social distancing among staff and patrons helps customers feel comfortable and confident enjoying their favorite local eateries. Show your customers how your business is working to keep them healthy and satisfied using this [customizable “I Mask Because...” social media graphic template](#) and #MaskOnMcHenryCounty or #MaskOnLakeCounty.



Phase 4 Business Toolkit and Resources

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has put together helpful toolkits for the restaurant industry, including free printable posters, checklists and guidelines. Check it out [here](#).



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