

## Daily Public Schedule: Monday, Jan. 11, 2021

**What:** Gov. Pritzker to give a COVID-19 update.

**Where:** Illinois State Capitol, Governor's Office, Springfield

**When:** 2:30 p.m.

**Watch live:** <https://www.Illinois.gov/LiveVideo>

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### COVID-19 Update: January 11, 2021

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at [www.gpcovid.com](http://www.gpcovid.com). Send any questions to [bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org](mailto:bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org).

#### Regions 2 and 3 Move to Tier 2 Mitigations on Jan. 15

Last week, Gov. Pritzker announced that most regions of Illinois (including Regions 2 and 3, which cover Greater Peoria) can retreat from Tier 3 mitigation measures to Tier 2 starting Friday, January 15. The state has yet to republish its Tier 2 rules, and it is unclear if there will be any changes, but based on the previous Tier 2 (in place before Nov. 20, 2020), the following appear to be the major changes that will be in place later this week:

- Indoor recreational facilities (casinos, museums, bowling alleys, etc.) can reopen. Capacity limits for casinos are 25% and they must close at 11 pm. All others have a capacity limit of 50%. It is unclear what the rules for video gaming might be.
- Health and fitness centers capacity is now 50%. Locker rooms can open. Patrons must wear masks while in the facility, but not required while exercising.
- Hotel event spaces and fitness centers can open subject to other conditions for those categories.
- Meetings and social gatherings allowed up to 10 people. Tier 3 rules limited gatherings to households.
- Personal care services (i.e. salons, barbers) can now operate at 50% capacity. Procedures that require patrons to remove their masks (beard trim, facials) are now allowed.
- Retail businesses can now operate at 50% capacity.
- **Indoor dining for bars and restaurants is still prohibited in Tier 2.**

Further clarification is expected later this week and this information will be updated.

#### Paycheck Protection Program Opens Soon

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only "community financial institutions" will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act. Learn more [here](#).

#### Paycheck Protection Summary

The [Illinois Small Business Development Center at Bradley University](#) (SBDC) has an excellent summary of the Paycheck Protection Program:

- *PPP Funding Levels:* Loans (which would be forgivable if used for allowable expenses) will be 2.5 times average monthly payroll. Restaurants and accommodation (lodging) businesses receive 3.5 times average monthly payroll.
- *More Flexibility in Allowable Forgivable Expenses:* The new PPP has even more flexibility than the 2019 PPP program. Prior allowable expenses remain: payroll, utilities, rent, and mortgage interest. New eligible use of funds includes:
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE) and adaptive investments to help small business owners comply with health and safety guidelines;
  - Operations expenditures for payments on software and other items for human resources and accounting needs;
  - Supplier costs that are essential to business operations, including perishable goods; and
  - Property damage caused by public disturbances that aren't otherwise covered by insurance.

- *Easy Loan Forgiveness*: for loans up to \$150,000, the forgiveness application is a single page certification with only essential information. Borrowers receive full loan forgiveness if they spend at least 60% of their PPP on payroll costs over a time period of their choosing between 8 weeks and 24 weeks.
- *Second Draw PPP*: Businesses that received a PPP loan in 2019 may apply for a second PPP if they have less than 300 employees and have revenue reduced by at least 25 percent. (This is called Second Draw PPP.) Maximum amount is \$2 million.
- *Priority Consideration*: is provided for specific businesses including minority- and women-owned businesses. Specific funding has been set-aside exclusively for first-time PPP applicants with 10 or fewer employees.
- *Deadline to Apply*: The deadline for PPP2 is March 31, 2021.
- *Sole Proprietors May Apply*: The PPP does allow a sole proprietor with no employees to apply if their business showed a net profit on their Schedule C.

### **City of Peoria Business Recovery Grant Round 2 Open**

The City of Peoria “Business Recovery Grant (BRG) Program” provides reimbursement grants for businesses negatively impacted by COVID. Business may apply for grants in three strategic areas: sustainability, capacity building, and transformation. Grants up to \$15,000 for businesses and hotels up to \$25,000 are available for “Qualified Business” for “Eligible Expenses”. The BRG program has been developed to specifically provide financial support for small businesses based on Business Sustainability, Business Capacity Building and Business Transformation efforts during the pandemic. Businesses with losses related to COVID-19 who incurred expenses related to any of the efforts listed above should make an application for reimbursement of the related expenses. You can review program materials [here](#) and apply for the grant [here](#). **Applications are due January 18, 2021 at 5 pm.**

### **LISC Rural Relief Small Business Grants Open from January 26 through February 2**

The [Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#) (LISC) is offering [Rural Relief Small Business Grants](#) for up to \$20,000. Grants support small businesses and enterprises affected by COVID-19 across the country, especially those in underserved communities, including entrepreneurs of color, women- and veteran-owned businesses that often lack access to flexible, affordable capital. Applications are being accepted in “rounds” and you must submit a new application for each round in order to be considered for funding in that round. The next application round runs January 26 through February 2. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

### **Vaccines for Healthcare Professionals**

All healthcare personnel are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (Vaccine “Tier 1A”). If you have not already done so, please contact the Peoria, Tazewell, or Woodford County Health Department of your choice to schedule an appointment. If your organization has already contacted a health department, you do not need to call/email again.

- Peoria County: [vaccinerequest@peoriacounty.org](mailto:vaccinerequest@peoriacounty.org)
- Tazewell County: (309) 650-1555
- Woodford County: (309) 467-3064

If you are not in the Tier 1A healthcare worker group, do not email or call at this time. Due to high volumes, you may not receive any response. Instead, please continue to follow [social media pages](#) and the health departments' websites for information on when eligibility is expanded past 1A.

Once Illinois makes substantial progress in Phase 1A and federal vaccine deliveries increase, Phase 1B will include frontline essential workers and residents age 65 and over. The frontline essential workers include first responders, education, food and agriculture, manufacturing, corrections workers and inmates, USPS workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and staff at shelters and day cares. To provide more equitable vaccine access to elder populations given data showing people of color die of COVID-19 at younger ages, Illinois also lowered the age eligibility by 10 years, from age 75 to age 65. Illinois has 1.3 million people who qualify as “frontline essential workers” and 1.9 million adults age 65 and over, totaling 3.2 million eligible Illinoisans.