

COVID-19 Update: January 21, 2021

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at www.gpcovid.com. Send any questions to bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org.

Region 2 Moves to Tier 1 Mitigations; Region 3 Moves to Phase 4

The Illinois Department of Public Health has stated that Region 2, which includes Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford and Fulton counties, has progressed to Tier 1 Mitigations. Chief among the differences with Tier 1 from more restrictive Tiers is that limited indoor dining is now allowed (25% occupancy). More discussion of Tier 1 regulations can be found [here](#). Region 3, which includes Mason and Logan counties, is now in Phase 4, which is less restrictive for most business categories. Full regulations for Phase 4 can be found [here](#).

No region can move to Phase 5 until there is widespread vaccine availability. In order to move to Phase 4, a region must have a test positivity rate less $\leq 6.5\%$ for three consecutive days, as measured by the 7-day rolling average; have $\geq 20\%$ available staffed ICU hospital beds for three consecutive days, on a 7-day rolling average; and have no sustained increase in the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 for seven out of 10 days, on a 7-day average. Region 2 currently meets the hospital metrics. As of January 18, 2021 the 7-day rolling positivity rate is 6.6% and dropping. Five of the last seven days in Region 2 have positivity rates of less than 6.5%. (Data can be found [here](#) for Region 2 and [here](#) for Region 3.)

Paycheck Protection Program Open To All PPP Lenders

The SBA opened the Paycheck Protection Program to all participating lenders earlier this week. Eligible small businesses can apply for a First or Second Draw PPP loan. First Draw loans are available to qualified small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Second Draw loans are available to qualified small businesses with fewer than 300 employees who can also demonstrate at least a 25% in revenues between similar quarters in 2019 and 2020. For both First and Second Draws, the loan amount is equal to 2.5x the average monthly payroll (3.5x for those in the hospitality business) and is borrowed for 5 years at 1%. Loans can be fully forgiven if proceeds are spent on eligible costs such as payroll. Businesses are encouraged to contact their financial institution or find a qualified lender through SBA's [lender match website](#). More program details [here](#).

SBA Extends Application Deadline for EIDL Loans Until December 31, 2021

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that the deadline to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster declaration is extended to Dec. 31, 2021. EIDL loan applications will continue to be accepted through December 2021, pending the availability of funds. Loans are offered at very affordable terms, with a 3.75% interest rate for small businesses and 2.75% interest rate for nonprofit organizations, a 30-year maturity, and an automatic deferment of one year before monthly payments begin. Every eligible small business and nonprofit are [encouraged to apply](#) to get the resources they need. Click [here](#) for more information.

eCommerce Webinar

The Illinois Small Business Development Center at Bradley University is offering a training event to help attendees explore the various ways small businesses can use eCommerce. This virtual workshop, "COVID-19 Assistance for Retailers and eCommerce," will feature Patrick Perreault, CEO of GetGlobal, and is offered at no cost. While the focus is on retailers, all businesses are welcome to attend. Registration is required for this event taking place on Tuesday, January 26, from 2 to 3:30pm. Click [here](#) to register.

Shuttered Venues Operators Grant Program Webinar

Are you a theatrical producer, talent representative, venue promoter or do you operate a live venue, live performing arts organization, movie house or cultural institution? You may be eligible to apply for the upcoming Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. Watch a replay of the event [here](#) to learn about the program, who can apply, and how to prepare for the application.

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.

Community Invited to Take Survey on Vaccine Readiness

In order to learn more about residents' motivation to receive, or not receive a COVID-19 vaccine, the Peoria City/County Health Department has developed a short survey that we invite community members to take. The results of the survey will help them better understand concerns, target messaging, and educational outreach to populations that may want more information on the vaccines as they become more readily available. Please take the COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Survey and distribute to members of your organization, colleagues, and those whom you provide direct services. You can also forward to friends and family members for participation. The online survey in English is available [here](#). The online survey in Spanish is available [here](#).

Bradley's Turner Center for Entrepreneurship Is Helping Local Businesses Succeed

New COVID-19 Assistance for Retailers

Tuesday | January 26

2 - 3:30 p.m. | Online

This workshop will explore different ways small businesses can adopt eCommerce safely and incrementally. Though the workshop's focus is on retailers, all businesses are welcome to attend. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Small Business Workshops

The Illinois Small Business Development Center at Bradley is offering a number of upcoming workshops that will help attendees learn important steps and tips related to starting a business. These virtual workshops, titled Starting Your Business in Illinois, are offered at no cost. Register/join online using the links below. For questions, email sybil@bradley.edu or call 309-677-2992. Morton Community Bank is a co-sponsor of these workshops.

- Wednesday, January 27, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. [[Join Here](#)]
- Thursday, February 11, from 10 a.m. - Noon [[Join Here](#)]
- Tuesday, February 23, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. [[Join Here](#)]