

COVID-19 Update: November 18

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

Entire State Subject to Higher Mitigation Regulations Effective Friday, November 20

Gov. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health announced a new set of stricter mitigation regulations to combat the spread of COVID-19. These rules go into effect at 12:01 am on Friday, November 20. Full details of the regulations can be found [here](#). Local media coverage [here](#) and [here](#). Below is a broad summary of the major elements of regulations impacting different business types:

Business Type	Regulation
Retail	Occupancy of 25% capacity for all stores other than grocery stores and pharmacies (50%)
Personal Care	Occupancy of 25% capacity; no services where masks cannot be worn
Health and Fitness	Occupancy of 25% capacity; locker rooms closed; masks at all times
Hotels	Occupants limited to registered guests only; event/meeting space closed
Manufacturing	Allowed to operate at full capacity but only production workers and key personnel allowed; masks at all times
Bars/Restaurants	In addition to current regulations, no outdoor tables of more than 6 people; reservations required; indoor gaming closed
Gatherings	Limit in-home gatherings to family members; no gatherings allowed at public spaces (i.e. clubs, banquet halls, etc.)
Sports/Activities	No indoor sports, outdoor sports allowed with masks and distancing
Other Recreation	Indoor recreation facilities closed (casinos, bowling, performing arts, theaters, etc.); outdoor recreation allowed with masks and distancing (reservations req.)

Again, the above table is just a summary. Please see [here](#) for fuller details.

Reminder: Second Round of Business Interruption Grant Still Available

Illinois DCEO is still accepting applications for its Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program. This is a very broad program covering a variety of different businesses. Among the qualified businesses:

- *Highly Impacted Industries:* Event centers, music venue, performing arts venue, indoor recreation (i.e. trampoline parks), amusement park, movie theaters, museums, charter/shuttle bus service

- *Priority Businesses:* Independently-owned retail stores; Restaurants, bars, and taverns; fitness centers; tourism- and travel-related activities (including hotels); support services for arts and events

More details, as well as the application portal, can be found at DCEO's website [here](#). Applications are being taken, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.

Reminder: City of Peoria Business Recovery Grant

The City of Peoria has established the Peoria Business Recovery Grant (BRG) Program to assist businesses with responding to the economic losses caused by COVID-19. This new grant program would provide financial assistance of up to \$15,000 to local businesses. The BRG will reimburse businesses for COVID-19-related expenses in three separate categories:

- Up to \$5,000 to reimburse for expenses and/or losses related to the pandemic;
- Up to \$5,000 to increase the capacity of the business to meet the demands of COVID and mitigation rules (i.e. costs related to expanding outdoor dining for restaurants)
- Up to \$5,000 to help transform the business to meet the realities of new economic patterns (i.e. costs of ecommerce platforms, social media campaigns, etc.)

Businesses can apply in any or all of the categories. A separate grant program for hotels will grant up to \$25,000 to help offset COVID related costs and revenue loss. Grant applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis until the funds are exhausted. Businesses may begin submitting applications immediately. More information [here](#) or apply online [here](#).

Reminder: Restaurant Employee Relief Fund

The Illinois Restaurant Association has launched a relief fund to help struggling restaurant workers that qualify with one-time \$500 grants. To qualify for the Restaurant Employee Relief Fund, you must have either: been diagnosed with COVID-19, served as a caregiver for an immediate family member who had COVID-19, or quarantined with a doctor's note; or been out of work for three weeks or more without unemployment benefits. More information [here](#).