



Rockford Region Rebounding Resurgence Mitigations Meetings, Social Events, and Gatherings at Restaurants and Bars

Guiding Principles:

- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic is constantly evolving based on the available information and local disease activity.
- It is important to remember that COVID-19 has not been eradicated and that hygiene best practices and social distancing practices must be maintained in order to help minimize new COVID-19 cases.
- This guidance was developed based on the Region 1 Resurgence Mitigations for Meetings, Social Events, and Gatherings to address the resurgence of COVID-19 infection in Region 1 which includes Winnebago County.
- Bars and restaurants that operate outside of these guidelines for Region 1 Resurgence Mitigations for Meeting, Social Events, and Gatherings must continue to operate under the Region 1 Mitigations for Bars and Restaurants.
- Winnebago County will continue to adhere to the *Restore Illinois Plan*, Executive Orders, and guidance/rules issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Restaurants and bars must comply with all applicable local municipal ordinances.

Dining Areas:

- Post signage at seating entryway stating patrons should not enter with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided at entry and cashier stations.
- Attendees must wear face coverings/facemasks over their nose and mouth except when eating and drinking while seated at the table. Exceptions can be made for people with health conditions.
- Bars and restaurants that serve as venues for meetings, social events, and gatherings may provide indoor seating.
 - A seating will be defined as a meeting, social event, or gathering of 25 or fewer attendees.
 - A seating will have designated start and end times not to exceed 1.5 hours/90 minutes.
 - Reservations are required for all seatings and must include the name, address, and cell phone contact information for all individuals in the seating.
 - Households may be seated together but must be separated to ensure six (6) feet of social distancing from other tables.
 - An attendee is limited to one seating per 24-hour period.
 - Meetings/social events/gatherings may start at 6:00 am and end at 9:30 pm to allow for closure by 11:00 pm.
- Designated space for meetings, social events, and gatherings must be physically separated from outdoor seating under Restaurants and Bars. If there are multiple designated spaces within an establishment, they must be separated by physical walls and doorways with ideally separate ventilation systems. Staff



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must be assigned to the designated space and not cross between designated spaces within an assigned work period.

- There should be no more than five (5) meetings, social events or gatherings/seatings per day.
- Seatings should be scheduled no less than 30 minutes apart to allow for air exchanges and sanitation.
- HVAC systems should allow for fresh air exchange between seatings.
- Menus should be touchless (such as electronic, billboard, etc.) or disposable. Reusable menus must be sanitized between attendees. These types of events typically have a pre-determined menu and fixed price.
- The following is not permitted:
 - Self-serve foods or beverages.
 - Walk-up attendees.
- Live music or entertainment is permissible with social distancing between the entertainer(s) and the attendees and between entertainers.
- Overall nightly cleaning and disinfection should be done in the morning to give airborne particulate matter time to settle (a minimum of 3 to 4 hours).

References:

Communities, Schools, Workplaces, and Events. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>.

Considerations for Restaurants and Bars. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/business-employers/bars-restaurants.html>.

Executive and Administrative Orders for the state of Illinois. <https://www2.illinois.gov/government/executive-orders>.

Hand Hygiene Recommendations. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx>.

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Region 1 Mitigation Measures. <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/COVID-19-Resurgence-Mitigations.pdf>.

Winnebago County Health Department. Available at www.wchd.org.