



Principles for Moving Through Phases of *Restore Illinois* and *Rockford Region Rebounding*

- Until an effective treatment or vaccine is available, communities will need to learn to co-exist with COVID-19. Best-practices and lessons learned from this pandemic can be applied to future emerging infectious diseases.
- Through effective community mitigation strategies implemented in Illinois and Winnebago Counties and adhered to by the community, the impact of COVID-19 on lives was lessened on a population level. This does not discount the individual deaths that occurred due to the disease.
- Public Health Metrics will be used to measure the readiness to implement less stringent community mitigation strategies.
 - The number of new cases has declined for at least 14 days (1 incubation period) and the positivity rate for tests is below 20%.
 - Hospital admissions remains fairly constant and there is an available surge capacity of a minimum of 14% for ICU beds, medical/surgical beds, and ventilators.
 - There is sufficient PPE for healthcare providers, first responders, congregate setting to provide routine care to both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients.
 - Diagnostic testing is available within 24 hours for all patients, health care workers, first responders, people with underlying health conditions, and residents and staffs within congregate living facilities.
 - Contact tracing and monitoring can begin within 24 hours of diagnosis/notification to the local health department of the positive results.
- The goal is the development and implementation of scalable mitigation activities to prevent disease outbreaks and closures of reopened services/businesses.
- Winnebago County including the City of Rockford is on track to meet the public health metrics to move into Phase 3: Recovery of *Restore Illinois* by the end of May consistent with the expiration of the Executive Order # 2020-32.
- Risk Assessments should be considered for the following categories for organizations/settings:
 - Non-essential businesses as defined by the Executive Order #2020-32.
 - Schools and childcare facilities including summer camp/activity programs
 - Outdoor spaces
 - Community gathering spaces including places of worship
 - Transportation
 - Mass gatherings
 - Interpersonal gatherings



- The City of Rockford has established ten (10) working groups open to Winnebago County municipalities and representatives (*Rockford Region Rebounding*) to develop community standards to phase in reopening of sectors:
 - Arts and Culture
 - Budget
 - Education and Workforce Development
 - Government/Efficiency
 - Health Care
 - Human Services/Places of Worship/Faith-based
 - Industry
 - Public Infrastructure
 - Small Business
 - Tourism and Hospitality
- The *Rockford Region Rebounding* workgroups should consider the risk assessment of the categories for organizations/settings relevant to their charge for phased reopening. For example, Arts and Culture would consider museums, conservatories, outdoor art events, etc. in their plans.
- As workgroups meet to develop plans for *Rockford Region Rebounding* and *Restore Illinois*, the plans should at a minimum address the modified Hierarchy of Controls as outlined by in the *Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors*.
 - Physical Distancing
 - Engineering Controls
 - Administrative Controls
 - Safe Work Practices
 - PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Plans for reopening should reference the following in the event of an exposure or outbreak within the facility:
 - Prompt notification to the Winnebago County Health Department of COVID-19 within employees or guests/customers/clients in the respective environment.
 - Record keeping methods to assist in prompt identification of exposures.
 - Policies that outline employee obligations and responsibilities.
 - Consideration of the environment as a sentinel site for prompt identification and reporting of potential outbreaks.
 - Working in partnership with the Winnebago County Health Department for messaging related to prevention, any restrictions, and notification to the public.
- Plans for reopening ahead of *Restore Illinois* timelines and metrics will be considered by the Winnebago County Emergency Operations Policy Group if metrics are achieved ahead of proposed timelines and plans address Hierarchy of Controls and Exposure/Outbreak Control strategies.



Resources/References:

Executive Order #2020-32. <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-32.aspx>

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), May 2020 ,<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>.

John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. *Principles for A Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors.* <https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/public-health-principles-for-a-phased-reopening-during-covid-19-guidance-for-governors>.
Opening Up America Again. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>.
Restore Illinois. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>.

United States Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>