



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/>