

Chicago is currently in Phase 5. This guidance is intended for all types of businesses and venues, customers, and employees in order to help maintain healthy environments and operations, as well as lower the risk of COVID-19 spread.

The following are recommended prevention strategies that recognize that while Chicago has made substantial progress in vaccinating its residents, a number of individuals remain ineligible or have not yet chosen to be vaccinated. Consistent use of prevention strategies will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including customers, employees, and their families. As always, businesses and local municipalities may choose to implement additional prevention strategies as they deem appropriate. This guidance will be updated as the CDC and IDPH release new recommendations and is meant to supplement any federal or state guidance, safety laws, rules, regulations or business safety policies that may expressly require a face covering and/or social distancing. Continue to consult the [CDC](#), [IDPH](#), and [City of Chicago](#) websites for updated resources, guidelines, and rules related to [COVID-19 safety](#).

Vaccination Status

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and widely available across Illinois. Everyone aged 12 years and older should be [vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 as soon as possible to keep from getting and/or spreading COVID-19.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, stay home and avoid public spaces except to get medical care.
- Effective August 20, 2021, masks are required, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor public settings.
- All unvaccinated persons are recommended to wear a mask outdoors whenever they are unable to maintain social distancing, and in particular in crowded settings. .

Social Distancing

- All businesses and venues should support social distancing to the extent possible, especially in indoor settings. Businesses and venues should apply best practices in managing distancing at such places as concessions/counters, public restrooms, and lines/queuing.

Masks

- Effective August 20, 2021, masks are required in all indoor public settings. Similar to previous mask mandates, masks can be removed at restaurants, bars and other eating/drinking establishments by patrons when they are actively eating/drinking. Masks can also be removed for certain activities that require their removal, such as beard shaves or facials. Additionally, masks can be removed by employees in settings that are not open to the public, if employees are static and maintaining at least six feet from all other individuals (for example, in office cubicles).
- Performers may remove masks while performing if everyone on the stage/in the performance area is fully vaccinated and they maintain at least 6-ft distancing from the audience at all times.

Travel Order

- Chicago's Emergency Travel Order is now a [Travel Advisory](#).
- Unvaccinated travelers should avoid non-essential travel. Returning travelers who live or work in Chicago, or visitors to Chicago who have travelled domestically are not required to quarantine if they are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated.
- If you are not vaccinated and are traveling from a state with 15.0 or more average daily cases per 100,000 population, you should receive a negative COVID-19 test result no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival and have proof of negative results OR plan to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.
- Masks are required by federal law on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Public Gatherings Guidance

For public gatherings and events, it is recommended that event organizers require attendees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to attending. To create a safer event, CDPH recommends checking documentation of vaccination or negative test status, if feasible. If vaccination or negative test status cannot be checked, CDPH recommends that all attendees, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks whenever social distancing cannot be maintained.