

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

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and widely available across Illinois. Everyone ages 5 years and older should be [vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 as soon as possible to keep from getting and/or spreading COVID-19.
- Individuals 16 years of age and over are recommended to get a booster shot if it has been 6 months after completing the Pfizer or Moderna two-dose vaccine series or 2 months after getting the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Regardless of vaccination status, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested and avoid public spaces except to get medical care.
- Effective January 3, 2022 any individual age 5 and older will be required to show proof of vaccination to dine indoors, visit gyms, or enjoy entertainment venues where food or drink are being served. More details on this vaccination requirement can be found on the [Chicago Vaccine Requirement site](#).
- 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, regardless of vaccination status, 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 Advisory

- Chicago's [Travel Advisory](#) is updated weekly on Tuesdays.
- Unvaccinated travelers should avoid non-essential travel. Fully vaccinated 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.
- 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
 - Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
 - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- 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 fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a negative COVID-19 test taken within 1-3 days prior to attending.
 - It is recommended that all unvaccinated individuals be required to take a COVID-19 test as close to the time of attending as possible.
 - At a minimum, event organizers should require unvaccinated attendees to get tested with a PCR test within 72 hours of attending or a rapid antigen test within 24 hours of attending.
 - If attendees are using a rapid home test, the test should be done on the day of the event.
- 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.
- Effective January 3, 2022, commercial event and party venues, as well as hotel meeting and event spaces, must comply with the [Chicago Vaccine Requirement policy](#), when food and beverage is served. A covered entity may in the interests of efficiency allow patrons to provide the requisite proof prior to entry, either directly to the covered entity or through an intermediary such as an event planner.