

Summary of Chicago Stay-at-Home Advisory

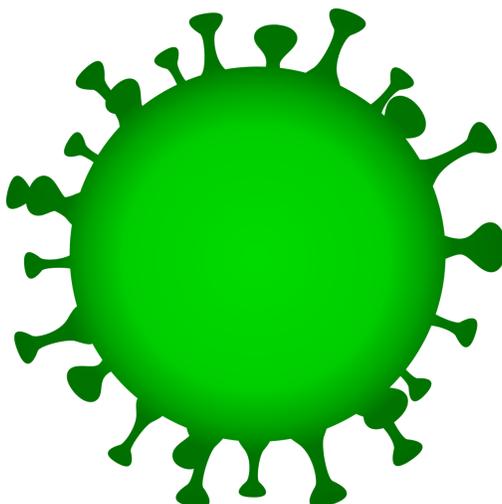


Image Description: Shadow of a green ball-shaped virus with round spikes

Starting on Monday, November 16, 2020, the City of Chicago will be under a stay-at-home advisory. Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Commissioner of Health for the City of Chicago, Dr. Allison Arwady, issued the order because COVID-19 rates are rapidly increasing in Chicago and they want to make sure they do the best they can to keep the virus from killing more people and making more people sick.

The people at Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), with support from the Institute on Disability and Human Development, decided to create a plain-language summary of what the stay-at-home order means for people who live in Chicago. Here are some key points in each section of the order:

Section One

Starting on Monday, November 16, 2020, people in Chicago will be under a stay-at-home advisory. Staying at home does NOT mean you have to stay at home all day or we are “on lockdown”. You should, however, stay inside as much as possible if you don’t have to go outside to do important things

You can still go outside to exercise, go grocery shopping, pick up something to eat, go to the doctor, get medicine, go to work, go to school, take care of someone, and other important things. But make sure that you wear something that covers your mouth and nose, and that you stand at least six feet from others when you go outside.

The Mayor’s Office and Chicago Health Department also suggest that you avoid traveling to places outside of the state, hosting large holiday dinners, and having a lot of guests over to your home (unless they are child care workers, people in the medical field, and other ‘important workers’).

The order will last at least 30 days, but depending on if COVID-19 case rates go down or continue to go up, the Chicago Health Department and the Mayor’s office may extend the order past 30 days.

Section Two

Any resident of Chicago should avoid traveling to other states, for reasons other than work and other ‘important’ reasons. If you travel from states that are coded red or orange, you must isolate yourself for 14 days or all the days that you’re in Chicago.

For more information about the Chicago Travel Restrictions, visit <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>.

Section Three

Any indoor/outdoor meeting or social event, like weddings, funerals, birthday parties, and hotel/AirBNB parties, are limited to no more than 10 people. Places that can be open due to Phase Four of Restore Illinois, such as places of worship, gyms, retail stores, and movie theaters, can still run during regular business hours at a small percentage of the max capacity level. In other words, those places can only let in a certain amount of people and cannot fill the place up for safety reasons.

Section Four

If you want people to come to your home, you should not invite more than six people that don't live with you and the people who live with you. Mayor Lightfoot and Dr. Arwady strongly suggests that you should try to limit the number of any small gatherings you host, or not host any small gatherings. They do suggest letting 'important' workers into your home, like doctors, child care workers, and much more.

Section Five

You can still go out to restaurants and bars that serve food in Chicago. Those places won't have dine-in services during the order, though some places can offer outside dining where you can eat at a table covered in tents or bubbles. Party size for your table cannot be over six people and everyone (including yourself) must

sit six feet apart from each other.

Section Six

Between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM, any place that is labeled 'non-essential' by the state of Illinois AND the City of Chicago will be closed to the public. But, places like medical centers, pharmacies, and grocery stores can open and close at their regular hours.

If you're 21 years old or older, you can get alcohol on-site or to-go until 11:00 PM at bars and restaurants that have a liquor license. Stores that sell liquor can sell alcoholic beverages to you until 9:00 PM; they cannot sell you liquor after 9:00 PM.

Though you cannot dine-in at places that sell food, you can still get your food to-go or delivered to you during regular business hours.

Section Seven

There are some places that have special guidelines they must follow. Here are examples of those places:

- No more than 50 people, or 40% of the max crowd in some cases, can be in a place of worship during regular service (such as a church, synagogue, temple, mosque, etc.). Everyone in a place of worship must wear something that covers the nose and mouth, and be at least six feet away from each other. No more than 10 people can inside a place of worship during a wedding or funeral.

- Non-essential retail stores (like beauty stores, sporting goods stores, etc.) will open at 40% capacity, while essential retail stores (like grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies) will open at 50% capacity. Everyone in the stores must stay at least six feet away from each other and wear something that covers their nose and mouth.
- Health and fitness centers will open at 50% capacity; they can host up to 15 people in fitness classes. Everyone in the health or fitness center must stay at least six feet away from each other and wear something that covers their nose and mouth.
- Personal services, like barbershops, nail salons, massage parlors, and hair salons, will open at 40% capacity. Everyone in those places must stay at least six feet away from each other and wear something that covers their nose and mouth.
- Performance venues and movie theaters are open at 40% capacity or to no more than 50 people, depending on the size of the place. Everyone in a theater or performance venue must stay at least six feet away from each other and wear something that covers their nose and mouth.
- Indoor recreation places, like bowling alleys and arcades, will open at 40% capacity. Everyone in an indoor recreation place must stay at least six feet away from each other and wear something that covers their nose and mouth.

Section 8

If you're feeling sick, or if you think you might have COVID-19 symptoms, PLEASE go to your doctor and stay indoors until

your doctor says you're feeling 100% good and have no symptoms.

If you're working anywhere in Chicago, your workplace cannot punish you for not working because you are following your doctor's orders to stay at home while you get better. It is against city laws.

Conclusion

That is the summary of the Chicago stay-at-home advisory! While we have covered some of the key parts of the order, we realized that we did not cover everything. If you would like to learn more details about the order, visit the following link:

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/covid/health-orders/201112_Stay%20at%20home%20advisory%20and%20guidance_vF.pdf

Thank you all for checking out the plain-language summary of the order. We encourage you to continue to stay safe, ask people around you to stay safe, remember to wear something to protect your face from germs while staying at least six feet away from others!

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