



Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 Emergency Rules on Face Coverings & Gathering Size

In an effort to maintain the progress we have made in Illinois' COVID-19 pandemic response, the Pritzker administration has filed emergency rules for businesses, schools, and child care establishments regarding the use of face coverings and the size of gatherings.

These rules provide multiple opportunities for compliance before any penalty is issued, giving local authorities more leeway to support community public health in a productive manner. While existing, pre-pandemic enforcement laws, like revoking a license, are stringent and severe, these rules provide flexibility for local communities and a measured process to help keep people safe.

KEY POINTS:

- The goal here is one we should all share: prioritizing public health and encouraging compliance with public health guidance that will keep us all safe.
- The new rules encourage voluntary compliance and offer businesses multiple opportunities to implement health guidelines before receiving a penalty, a system already utilized in other states like New York, Louisiana, and Nevada.
- The majority of states, from our Midwest colleagues like Ohio and Wisconsin to Republican-led states like Georgia and Florida, have or had enforcement mechanisms relating to their pandemic response. This temporary emergency rule brings Illinois in line with this national practice, giving local officials more flexibility in their ability to keep their communities safe.
- This is about businesses and organizations, not individual people. Individuals are not subject to any penalty under this rule. The vast majority of Illinoisans are already making the responsible and compassionate choice to wear a face mask when social distancing is not possible.
- Illinois has made substantial progress in our fight against COVID-19 because the vast majority of communities and business owners have done the right thing and followed the public health guidance. These rules will help ensure that the small minority who refuse to act responsibly, won't take our state backwards.