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**Cook County Department of Public Health Officials Announce
Phase 5 Reopening Guidance in Suburban Cook County**

All sectors to reopen at full capacity as COVID-19 metrics improve, vaccinations rise

Forest Park, IL—Today, the Cook County Department of Public Health is issuing COVID-19 Phase 5 reopening guidance removing all capacity limits and restrictions on all sectors of the economy. This guidance is effective Friday, June 11, 2021.

Suburban Cook County has met Phase 5 guidelines, including vaccination of at least 50 percent of residents ages 16 and older, and stable or declining COVID-19 metrics recorded during a 28-day period.

“It’s been a long 18 months, but we continue see a steady improvement in metrics while the vaccination rates have climbed, which allows us to return to a more normal way of life,” said Dr. Rachel Rubin, Senior Public Health Medical Officer and Co-Lead, Cook County Department of Public Health.

Conventions, festivals, and other large events can proceed at full capacity. Phase 5 allows businesses, schools, and recreation to resume normal operations with new state safety guidance and procedures, including

- For businesses and venues where everyone present is fully vaccinated, the state does not require face coverings and social distancing in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- Businesses and municipalities are permitted to continue requiring face coverings and social distancing as they deem appropriate.
- For businesses and venues where everyone present is not fully vaccinated, unvaccinated persons should wear a face covering and maintain six feet social distancing.
- Businesses and venues may continue to require face coverings and/or social distancing. At outdoor businesses and venues, unvaccinated persons may choose not to wear a face covering when able to maintain a six-foot social distance when outdoors, unless required to do so by a business or municipality.
- Individuals in schools, day care settings, and educational institutions should continue to follow separate guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and Illinois Department of Public Health.

“We’re approaching the end of the pandemic tunnel, but we still encourage everyone over the age of 12 to get vaccinated to protect your family and community,” said Dr. Kiran Joshi, Senior Medical Officer and Co-Lead, Cook County Department of Public Health.

If there is a resurgence in metrics, including COVID-19 hospital admissions, ICU bed availability and deaths, Cook County could revert to a previous phase.

The current 7-day rolling average of cases reported in suburban Cook County is 131, down from 216 the previous week.

Phase 5 guidance includes limited circumstances and settings where all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated, must continue to wear a mask in accordance with CDC guidance: 1) on public transportation, 2) in congregate facilities, 3) in health care settings, and where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Although people who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a face covering under state guidance, businesses and venues should be supportive of customers and employees who choose to wear a face covering. Additionally, persons who are immunocompromised should consider wearing a face covering when in settings where others may not be fully vaccinated. All unvaccinated persons should wear face coverings in crowded settings, both indoors and outdoors, especially when youth are present.

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 in such places as concessions/counters, public restrooms, and lines/queuing.

**ORDER OF THE
COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
No. 2021-9
COVID-19 PHASE 5**

Effective: June 11, 2021

WHEREAS, On January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Public Health is the Illinois certified local health department for suburban Cook County, Illinois, with the exception of Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park, and Stickney Township, serving 127 municipalities.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health is responsible for determining when a danger to the public health exists within its jurisdiction, and to order measures deemed necessary to protect the public health until such time that the danger to the public health is eliminated or reduced in such a manner that an immediate threat no longer exists.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-33(b), a law enforcement officer with proper jurisdiction shall be authorized to enforce orders issued by the Cook County Department of Public Health with respect to public health measures and shall assist in enforcing such orders.

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has announced that suburban Cook County can move to Phase 5, Illinois Restored, effective June 11, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Public Health has determined that Phase 5, Illinois Restored, is appropriate for areas it serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the Illinois Public Health Act (20 ILCS 2305/1.1 *et seq.*); the Illinois Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-15 *et seq.*); and the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances (Chapter 38, Article II *et seq.*), the Cook County Department of Public Health hereby directs and orders:

Cook County Department of Public Health Order 2021-8 is hereby repealed.

Cook County Department of Public Health encourages businesses to follow any Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Department of Public Health policy and guideline updates.

Nothing in this Order shall, in any way, alter or modify the legal authority of the State or any county, or local government body.

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