

COVID-19 Update: May 13

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at www.gpcovid.com. Send any questions to bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org.

Restore Illinois Metrics

The Illinois Department of Public Health has created a public dashboard of health metrics to show progress of the various regions toward meeting from phase to phase in the [Restore Illinois](#) plan. Most of Greater Peoria is in the North Central region. Mason and Logan counties are in the Central Region. Both regions are doing well measured against these metrics. You can see the progress [here](#).

City of Pekin Business Grant Application Window Closes Soon

The City of Pekin opened a second round of its small business grant program on May 6. **Applications are due by 11:59 pm on May 13.** For-profit businesses with a physical location within the City of Pekin and with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue are eligible. The City will award grants of \$5,000 to businesses that have W2 employees and \$2,000 to self-employed individuals or businesses without W2 employees. More information [here](#). In the first round, Pekin [awarded](#) \$363,000 in grants to 91 different businesses.

Unemployment Benefits for the Self-Employed

Monday, May 11 was the first day the “unemployed self-employed” could file for unemployment benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. According to IDES, workers who believe they may be eligible for new federal benefits, **must first apply for regular unemployment insurance** before applying for benefits under PUA. If claimants receive an eligibility determination of \$0, they can then appeal that decision by providing verification of wages earned, or they can submit a claim for PUA benefits. Claimants who have already applied for and been denied regular unemployment benefits can submit a claim through the new PUA portal when it opens. **Receiving a denial for regular unemployment benefits is a mandatory first step in determining eligibility for PUA.** IDES has revamped its website and has a number of tutorials, videos and a chatbot. Start [here](#). More about PUA [here](#) and [here](#).

Inc. Magazine Free Resources for Businesses

Inc. magazine has compiled an updated list of free tools, resources and financial help for businesses impacted by COVID-19 [here](#).

State Guidance Regarding Face-Coverings

The Illinois Department of Human Rights has released guidance regarding the application of the face-covering requirement in the Governor’s extended stay-at-home order for businesses and other places of public accommodation subject to Article 5 of the Illinois Human Rights Act. Read the guidance [here](#).