

COVID-19 Update: August 26

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

Illinois tightens mask rules in restaurants and bars

Under the new statewide rules, diners and drinkers will be required to wear a mask when approached by a server to take or deliver their order, or otherwise interacting with them. They can take it off while they eat or drink alone with their group. This new guidance goes into effect Today, Wednesday, August 26. Said Gov. Pritzker in a statement and at a press conference, “Due to a recent uptick in cases, we must take additional precautionary steps when we are out in public....The state of Illinois is implementing updated guidelines which will allow restaurants and bars across the state to stay open while helping protect the health and safety of patrons and staff.” Local coverage from the Journal Star [here](#).

Travel Guidance

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) launched its new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) travel map to help inform residents of potential risks associated with traveling during the pandemic. The map indicates countries and U.S. states with increased risk of COVID-19 based on case rates. Locations that have an average daily case rate of 15 cases per 100,000 or greater are designated as “higher risk” on the map, which can be found here <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/travel>.

PPP Advice

From Jonathan Williams at [Commerce Bank](#): While the Small Business Administration (SBA) opened the portal for loan forgiveness on August 10, the process is very manual. Many banks are establishing automated ways to communicate with SBA to streamline the forgiveness process and make the customer experience significantly better. Second, many banks are suggesting that customers wait to apply for loan forgiveness until Congress has finalized a few provisions, one which would allow all loans under \$150,000 to be forgiven with very limited effort.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Extended

Governor Pritzker announced that the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) has extended the deadline for Illinois renters to apply for aid by one week to 12:00 p.m. on August 28th due to those impacted by the storms last week. In addition, landlords will be given an additional two days, through August 30th, to complete their portion of the application. The Emergency Rental Assistance program provides \$5,000 to eligible tenants who have seen their household income decline as a result of the COVID-19. Renters affected by the storms, or those requiring assistance navigating the application process, are encouraged to reach out to one of the 62 Community and Outreach Assistance organizations with which IHDA has partnered. These organizations can be found on the ‘resources’ page at era.ihda.org.

Developing an Effective Business Continuity Plan for Your Small Business

From [Bradley’s Small Business Development Center](#): Applications are currently being accepted for funding the development of a small business continuity plan. The COVID-19 health pandemic has had a tremendous impact on small businesses and disrupted their normal business operations. Companies without a business continuity plan were forced to adjust to changing conditions with little advanced planning. The goal of a business continuity plan is to identify key issues that would affect a business in the case of a disruption and bring all the needed information in one location. Under the CARES Act, funding is available to support the

costs of assisting small businesses in Central Illinois in the process of developing a Business Continuity Plan. If you have an interest in receiving financial support to develop your Business Continuity Plan, the first step is to watch [this webinar](#) where the importance of such a plan is discussed, and how the CARES Act funding may be used. Questions can be directed to SBDCcovid@bradley.edu.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Still Available

Small businesses, private non-profits and agricultural businesses impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, can still apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). EIDL proceeds can be used to cover a wide array of working capital and normal operating expenses, such as continuation to health care benefits, rent, utilities and fixed debt payments. Learn more [here](#).