

COVID-19 Update: December 11

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

Deadline Approaching: BIG Ends December 15

Illinois DCEO announced today that it will stop taking applications for its Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15. This is a very broad program covering a variety of different businesses. Among the qualified businesses:

- Highly Impacted Industries: Event centers, music venue, performing arts venue, indoor recreation (i.e. trampoline parks), amusement park, movie theaters, museums, charter/shuttle bus service
- Priority Businesses: Independently-owned retail stores; Restaurants, bars, and taverns; fitness centers; tourism- and travel-related activities (including hotels); support services for arts and events

More details, as well as the application portal, can be found at DCEO's website [here](#). Applications are being taken, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.

CDC Releases Updated Guidance on Quarantine Times

On December 2, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new options for public health authorities to consider for establishing quarantine time frames for contacts of a person with COVID. Click [here](#) to review the full details on these new options. The CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. With this strategy, residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%.
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than Day 8. In other words, the earliest they could test would be on Day 6. With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 5% with an upper limit of about 12%.

With both options the following additional criteria through Day 14 must be met:

- correct and consistent mask use (including within homes),
- social distancing,
- hand and cough hygiene,
- environmental cleaning and disinfection,
- avoiding crowds,
- ensuring adequate indoor ventilation,
- monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 illness, and
- minimizing contact with persons at increased risk for severe illness, including vulnerable and congregate populations.

Ameren Small Business Energy Saving Incentives

Ameren is offering a number of incentives for small businesses to save money through energy efficiency. They have recently added a refrigeration incentive that is targeted at restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, and other similar businesses. The new refrigeration incentives include the following upgrades for walk-in/reach-in coolers and freezers: efficient motors, evaporator fan controls, anti-sweat heater controls, and door closers. For more information and to schedule a FREE assessment, please visit AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/SmallBusiness.