

COVID-19 Alert

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In response to rising COVID-19 cases in Illinois, the [Restore Illinois Phased Plan](#) is increasing its mitigation measures throughout its 11 EMS regions. Now, in addition to Phased reopening guidance, a tiered approach is also layered into the restrictions in hopes that smaller measures will prevent a full reversal into Phase 3 statewide. To help members navigate their current regions status, IRMA has compiled the most relevant information to date:

- [Restore Illinois Regional Dashboard](#) – Locate counties within a region, their current phase, if there are mitigation measures in place, and their effective dates.
- [IDPH - Mitigation Measure Updates](#) – Regional resurgence criteria and summary of regions in tiered mitigation measures.
- [Illinois Mitigation Plan](#) – Summary of mitigation measure tiers and restrictions.

Impact on IRMA members

As mitigation measures fluctuate throughout the regions, emphasis should be placed on following current capacity limits and any new restrictions that arise. This may affect in-person board meetings, group trainings, and recreational events planned for the upcoming holiday season.

Stay Vigilant/Avoid Pandemic Fatigue

We have seen an increase in COVID-19 as a result of exposures while participating in training. Attending certain trainings like Fire Training Academy or Defensive Tactics may be unavoidable; work with those entities to ensure their pandemic protocols are spelled out and taken seriously. Allow your employees to leave the training if safety protocols are not being practiced and to report health concerns immediately. Another consideration for increasing outbreaks could be “pandemic fatigue”- i.e. becoming lax with basic masking, distancing, and hand washing protocols while at work and at home. Remind employees to follow basic hygiene habits and to always report symptoms of illness immediately. IRMA has offered [Online Training Videos](#) for easy refresher training. Every IRMA member should have a policy that each department should be enforcing safe practices consistently.

Reduce the Second Wave of COVID-19

Now is the time to double down on COVID-19 protection in the workplace. IRMA recently requested feedback on COVID-19 plans through a survey. Of those members that participated, half indicated that they do not require a daily pre-health screening of its employees. We recommend daily [pre-health screening](#) of employees. While most survey participants relayed that they do mandate face coverings and have posted notices, the majority have yet to outline a written plan in the event of an outbreak. IRMA has outlined a [Sample COVID-19 Policy](#) that any organization can tailor for their own use.

Other Resources:

[CDC - Holiday Celebrations](#) & [IDPH – Halloween Guidance](#)