



FROM: Bose Public Affairs Group  
DATE: May 22, 2020  
RE: Weekly State Government COVID-19 Update

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### **BIG PICTURE IN INDIANA**

As of Friday, May 22, the Indiana State Department of Health ("ISDH") reported 30,409 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana, which is an increase from the 26,655 cases reported last week. ISDH also reported 1,791 deaths in Indiana, up from 1,550 last week. Track the latest reporting numbers from ISDH [here](#), which includes statistics on demographics, testing, and hospital capacity that are currently helping Indiana navigate through the pandemic.

ISDH Commissioner Dr. Kris Box continues to urge Hoosiers to remain vigilant as the state continues to slowly reopen. Testing in the Hoosier state is continuing to increase daily, with 208,561 people tested thus far. The number of available ICU beds and ventilators continue to hold steady, which is crucial in continuing to open the state and is one of the state's four guiding principles. The contact tracing program surpassed 6,000 outbound calls to Hoosiers who may have had contact with an individual known to have COVID-19, which is another one of the state's guiding principles.

Governor Holcomb and other state officials hold a virtual press conference every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2:30 PM ET. Due to the holiday weekend, there will not be a press conference on Monday. To see a summary of each press conference, click [here](#).

### **STATE ORDERS REOPENING PLAN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

As previously announced, Governor Holcomb and his administration are using four guiding principles to determine when Indiana is in a position to continue reopen various sectors of the Hoosier economy. These four guiding principles rely on specific data including: (1) The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients statewide has decreased for 14 days; (2) The state retains its surge capacity for critical care beds and ventilators; (3) The state retains the ability to test



all Hoosiers who are COVID-19 symptomatic, as well as healthcare workers, essential workers, first responders and others as described on the [Indiana State Department of Health website](#); and (4) Health officials have systems in place to contact all individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and complete contact tracing.

Indiana has satisfied these four guiding principles and, therefore, Governor Holcomb issued [Executive Order 20-28 on Thursday](#). The order permits all of Indiana, excluding Marion, Lake and Cass counties, to enter into [Phase 3 of Governor Holcomb's Back on Track Plan on Friday](#), two days earlier than originally planned. Barring further local action, the excluded counties will enter Stage 3 on June 1.

Highlights of Stage 3 include:

- Restaurants to remain at 50% capacity, bar seating and nightclubs to remain closed.
- Retailers will be allowed to open at 75% capacity while maintaining social distancing.
- Casinos to remain closed.
- Social gathering of up to 100 people may take place.
- Limited access to state and local government venues.
- Gyms and fitness centers may open with at 50% capacity.
- Nursing homes to remain closed to visitors.
- Face coverings and continued remote work are encouraged

Notably, playgrounds and movie theaters were originally planned to reopen in Stage 3 with limited capacity but were pushed back to Stage 4 in the latest order. EO-28 also extends the ban on utility shutdowns, evictions and mortgage foreclosures to July 1. Stage 3 is scheduled to last just over three weeks, with [Stage 4](#) set to begin June 14.

### **STATE AGENCIES TO REDUCE BUDGETS 15%**

In what is the first of what will likely be several efforts to curb state spending, Governor Holcomb [directed](#) state agencies to cut budgets by 15% in fiscal year 2021 because of large decreases to state revenue. Each agency is now required to submit a strategic plan by June 8 to show it will comply with the order. Holcomb also announced the state will not proceed with other planned expenditures, including higher education projects, deferred maintenance projects, and an investment in the Next Level Trails program.

This move comes after the State Budget Agency ("SBA") [announced](#) state general fund revenues for April were nearly \$1B short of projections. Holcomb said the SBA estimates show the state could face an even great loss of general fund revenue in the final 14 months of the biennium.



## INDIANAPOLIS DETAILS DINE OUT INITIATIVE & GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Indianapolis announced initiatives this week to aid restaurants and small businesses in safely reopening as the city's economy slowly reopens. Beginning May 22, several streets in Indianapolis will be blocked off to accommodate the portion of the Marion County Public Health Department's latest order requiring restaurants to offer only outside dining. The ["Dine Out" initiative](#) aims to create more space for outdoor seating in areas with high concentrations of commercial activity. The [closures](#) are expected to last through July 4.

The city also detailed its RESTART Grant Program, which will reimburse Marion County small businesses for PPE equipment. In partnership with Indy Chamber, the program will provide up to \$5,000 to businesses located in Marion County with under 150 employees. More details on the grant program can be found [here](#).

## DOE INFORMATION ON 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR COMING SOON

The Governor's Office, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration are diligently engaging various education stakeholders to issue clear guidance to schools, teachers, parents and students on how to safely reopen. The guidance will likely contain uniform guidelines covering topics such as operations, food-service, special education, and transportation. This guidance was originally planned to be released in July. However, the Governor's administration and education stakeholders will release the guidance by early June to give schools and communities more runway to successfully execute the guidelines. On a federal level, the Bose Public Affairs Group team put together a [summary](#) of the education provisions of the HEROES Act that may influence guidance issued on a state level.

[Executive Order 20-28](#) allows educational institutions to open for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research or performing essential functions provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. Educational institutions that were previously closed and are reopening for these purposes must perform certain sanitary actions and provide disposable wipes so commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use. All buildings, facilities and grounds will remain closed for education and school-sponsored activities through June 30, 2020, except for purposes allowed by executive orders.

## INDIANA PRIMARY RESULTS COULD BE DELAYED

It could take two to three days after Primary Election Day to determine the results of the upcoming primaries in Indiana, [according to Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson](#). The reason for the delay is the large increase in absentee ballots that will accompany the primary. As of last week, Indiana has already seen over 300,000 absentee ballot requests, and the need



for volunteers in addition to following coronavirus prevention measures when counting ballots may delay results.

### **FACEBOOK TO AID SMALL BUSINESSES**

In a survey of 86,000 owners, managers, and workers in companies across the US with fewer than 500 employees, Facebook, in partnership with Small Business Roundtable, was able to put together a sobering snapshot of the struggle many small businesses are facing in their first ["State of Small Business" report](#). The survey shows that a third of small businesses have already closed their doors to an uncertain future and the biggest challenges for most small businesses are access to capital and customer demand behavior. Because Facebook is a primary source for small businesses to access resources, it has made \$100M available in grants to small businesses around the world and are creating new ways for customers to support local businesses.

### **CDC ISSUES LARGE-SCALE GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING**

The Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") recently released [large scale guidance](#) for the US regarding the Trump Administration's plan for reopening America. The report provides guidelines for testing, contact tracing, and several occupational areas such as restaurants and bars, schools and day camps, and mass transit administrators, among other industries. The report is noteworthy due to several local businesses in Indiana being required to follow "CDC Guidelines."

### **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

[Executive Order 20-28](#): Back On Track: Reopening Indiana in Stage Three

To see all of the Governor's Executive Orders, click [here](#).

### **USEFUL LINKS**

[BME PPP Use of Funds and Forgiveness](#) (Updated May 19, 2020)

[SBA Coronavirus Relief Options](#)

[Indiana SBDC COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BPAG COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BME COVID-19 Resources](#)

