



FROM:	Bose Public Affairs Group
DATE:	May 1, 2020
RE:	Weekly State Government COVID-19 Update

BIG PICTURE IN INDIANA

As of Friday, May 1, there are a reported 18,630 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana, up from 13,680 cases this time last week. The Indiana State Department of Health also reports 1,062 deaths in Indiana, up from 741. Track the latest reporting numbers from ISDH [here](#), which include statistics on demographics, testing, and hospital capacity.

On Monday, the State reported 952 new daily cases with a large majority of these cases stemming from an outbreak in Cass County. This is the highest number of new cases reported in a single day since the department began releasing daily reports.

Governor Holcomb and other state officials hold a daily press conference at 2:30 PM ET. To see a summary of each press conference, click [here](#).

THE PLAN TO RE-OPEN INDIANA

On Friday afternoon, Governor Holcomb announced that the State is prepared to “move ahead in a measured way” in his statewide address.

Holcomb unveiled his [Back on Track Indiana plan](#), which includes a [five-stage plan](#) to slowly re-open Indiana’s economy sector by sector.

During the re-opening plan, Holcomb said the State will abide by four principles that will decide whether to continue with the plan or pause progress if necessary.

Four Guiding Principles:



1. Monitor the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients. (Number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients statewide has decreased the past 14 days)
2. Retain surge capacity for ICU beds, ventilators and other critical healthcare infrastructure
3. Have ability to test all Hoosiers who are COVID-19 symptomatic
4. Have the ability to contact trace all cases (centralized tracking systems starts May 11)

The roadmap to reopening Indiana's economy is as follows:

[Stage 1](#): Titled "Where we are now," is the current state of regulations Hoosiers have already been abiding by for the previous six weeks, including the allowance of elective procedures, essential businesses, and restrictions on social gatherings.

[Stage 2](#) will begin for all counties beginning May 4, excluding Marion, Lake, and Cass counties, and roll-out over a three-week period.

- Retailers will be allowed to open at 50% capacity
- Essential travel restrictions will be lifted
- Social gathering of up to 25 people will be allowed.
- Some BMV branches will be open by appointment only May 4, limited access to state buildings begins May 11.
- Manufacturers currently not operating will be allowed to do so.
- After a week of the start of Stage 2, personal services such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, etc. will be appointment only and employees must wear facemasks.
- After a week of the start of Stage 2, restaurants and bars may open at 50% capacity with bar seating closed and no live entertainment. Servers and kitchen staff must wear face coverings.
- The order will continue to encourage Hoosiers to wear face masks in public areas and recommend those over 65 years of age or have underlying health issues to remain home when possible.
- Remote working if possible is still strongly encouraged.

Due to the dense population and high number of cases, Marion and Lake counties will see these restrictions eased beginning May 11 and Cass County, who recently saw a spike in COVID-19 cases, will see restrictions eased on May 18.

[Stage 3](#) is scheduled to begin May 24 for the entire state for another two-week period.

- Retailers will be allowed to open at 75% capacity while maintaining social distancing.



- 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 restrictions, movie theatres may open at 50% capacity.
- Nursing homes to remain closed to visitors.
- Face coverings and continued remote work are encouraged.

[Stage 4](#), set to begin June 14 is the second to last stage of re-opening and will last for a little over two weeks.

- Retailers and malls may be open at full capacity with social distancing guidelines in place.
- Social gatherings of up to 250 people may take place.
- State and local government services public access restrictions lifted.
- Dining room service at restaurants may be open at 75% capacity, bars and bar seating open at 50% capacity.
- Professional office building employees may resume work at full capacity.
- Amusement parks and like facilities may open at 50% capacity.
- Cultural, entertainment, and tourism businesses may open at 50% capacity.
- Hoosiers encouraged to continue to work remotely and face coverings now optional.

[Stage 5](#), the final stage of re-opening, is scheduled to take place July 4 and beyond.

- K-12 school operations for the upcoming school year to be determined.
- Social gatherings of over 250 people permitted.
- Restaurants, bars, and nightclubs may be open at full capacity.
- Gyms and fitness centers may be open at full capacity.
- Conventions, sporting events, fairs, festivals, etc. may resume with social distancing guidelines.
- Nursing home guidance will continue to be evaluated.
- Hoosiers 65 years of age and older and those with underlying health issues are to remain cautious and social distance.

INDIANA RAMPS UP TESTING AND TRACING

President Trump has outlined testing and contact tracing as a "core state preparedness reasonability" in his [Guidelines Opening Up America](#). As Governor Holcomb takes his own steps to reopen Indiana's economy, he announced that the [Indiana State Department of Health has partnered with OptumServe Health Services](#) with the goal of expanding testing in Indiana. The goal of the partnership is to test every Hoosier who has symptoms or has had close contact



with an infected person. OptumServe Health Services will launch 20 sites around the state within the next week and will increase to 50 sites by mid-May. Once all 50 testing sites are open, the State will have a testing capacity of 100,000 in the first 30 days. A map of the testing locations can be found [here](#).

In addition to State resources, the private sector is stepping up to support the State's effort to expand testing. Kroger announced this week it has started [free drive through testing in Allen County](#) and will begin free drive through testing in Marion County next week. The Kroger testing program is part of a multistate effort by the retailer in partnership with HHS and the CDC. Indiana Kroger is partnering with the Indiana State Department of Health, the Allen County Health Department, and the Marion County Health Department.

The Governor also announced a [centralized contact tracing program](#) to work in tandem with the expanded testing program. Scheduled to start May 11, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has partnered with Maximus Inc. to implement a program which will deploy 500 call center professionals trained by ISDH. The Program involves identifying individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and asking questions about who they were in contact with during their infectious period, then notifying those close contacts of their exposure. Historically, local health departments have led this function, but State officials say that the centralized approach will free up resources at the local level. Contact tracing is a key part of the federal guidelines for the reopening of states.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

COVID-19 shockwaves are reverberating throughout the food supply chain. While empty shelves at the supermarket is unsettling, it is not the only stress point in the system. From food waste to human costs, the problems are diverse. Bose Public Affairs Group has put together an analysis elaborating on the virus outbreaks at food plants, the reduced processing capability, the effects on restaurants and bars, and more. Click [here](#) to read the analysis.

WEEKLY IDOE UPDATE

IDOE holds [weekly webinars](#) answering questions and giving updates on the state of K-12 education in Indiana. On Tuesday, Dr. McCormick elaborated that schools are to remain closed until June 30 and only essential workers are allowed in school buildings as designated by the school district, among other updates.

STATE EXPANDS SNAP BENEFITS

During Governor Holcomb's daily press availability on Monday, Indiana FSSA Secretary Dr. Jennifer Sullivan [announced](#) an expansion of SNAP benefits for households who have school-aged children who receive free or reduced-rate meals at school, but no longer have access



to the food due to COVID-19 school closures. The announcement also included details about SNAP Delivery, which allows individuals receiving SNAP benefits to use delivery services to bring groceries to them.

CASS, MARION COUNTIES ISSUE NEW ORDERS

Both Cass and Marion counties recently unveiled updated restrictions and social distancing regulations as both counties continue to be hotspots for COVID-19 cases. Cass County [declared a public health emergency](#) after a large spike in cases tied to a local meatpacking plant, which includes regulations such as masks being worn in essential stores, only one family member per household may shop at essential stores, and no person under 16 may enter essential stores.

Marion County [extended its local stay-at-home order through May 15](#) with the same restrictions as previously enacted. City officials said the local order may be adjusted to comply with the new state requirements Holcomb announced on Friday. However, Holcomb noted that local ordinances may be more stringent than state guidelines.

NEW LTC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Long term care facilities are now required to provide residents and their designated representatives daily updates regarding COVID-19 in its facilities following new reporting requirements [announced](#) Monday. Long term care facilities will also be required to have a dedicated staff person as the primary point of contact for residents and designated representatives and will have to submit standardized reports each Friday. These new standards come as long-term care facilities are among the hardest hit populations during the pandemic.

PPP: USE OF FUNDS AND FORGIVENESS Q&A

Once Paycheck Protection Program loans are granted, several businesses wonder when the funds must be spent, what are permitted uses of the funds, and the requirements to have the loan forgiven, among other questions. Bose McKinney & Evans published an easy to read FAQ document answering these questions and several others. The document can be accessed [here](#).

EXECUTIVE ORDERS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/27/20

[Executive Order 20-25](#): Renewal of Public Health Emergency Declaration for the COVID-19 Outbreak

[Executive Order 20-26](#): Roadmap to Reopen Indiana for Hoosiers, Businesses and State Government

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



USEFUL LINKS

[SBA Coronavirus Relief Options](#)

[Indiana SBDC COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Indiana Stay-At-Home Order FAQs](#)

