



Protect Lives, Protect Jobs, Protect Local Businesses

In mid-July, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce joined with a **diverse coalition of business groups** calling on Illinoisans to wear facemasks when in public to protect lives and protect the economy.

Mitigations are likely being considered again for our region due to increasing cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations. It is more critical than ever that each of us do all we can to protect lives and livelihoods. Today, we reiterate our previous call to action and ask your business and employees to practice every protective measure possible to protect lives and keep our local businesses open, especially those industries that have suffered the most - our hospitality and retail businesses.

Wear a mask when in public, keep your distance, wash your hands regularly, and do not forget to get a flu vaccine.

Together, we can protect lives, protect jobs, and protect local businesses.

City Issues Tent Warming Guidance for Restaurants

As colder weather approaches many bars and restaurants are considering how to best serve their customers with the continued use of outdoor tents. We have communicated with the City of Springfield regarding the usage of tents during cold weather. The City has provided the following **Tent Warming Guidance**.

Restaurant Employee Relief Fund

The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (IRAEF) Restaurant Employee Relief Fund is now open for applications. It provides one-time grants of \$500 to support restaurant employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or are caregivers for an immediate family member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or quarantined with a doctor's note; or who have been out of work for three weeks or more without unemployment benefits. **The application is here.**

Streamlined PPP Forgiveness Application for Loans Under \$50K

Businesses who received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans under \$50,000 can now access a new forgiveness application designed to simplify the forgiveness and loan review process, as announced by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury. This streamlined PPP forgiveness form does not require businesses to show the calculations used to determine their loan forgiveness amount. However, SBA may request information and documents to review those calculations as part of its loan review process. Important to note – this is not “automatic PPP loan forgiveness,” as borrowers are still required to submit documentation to lenders on payroll costs, rent/lease payments, and utilities. (Source: IL Restaurant Association)

Click here to download the new PPP loan forgiveness application

Click here to review the instructions for the new form.

Click here to review the SBA rules on the new forgiveness procedures for PPP loans under \$50,000.