

Good afternoon members,

As we prepare for Phase 3, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity offers guidelines and a re-opening toolkit. All is listed below.

Additionally, we have added some new webinars with topics related to re-opening and hitting a little closer to home. Robyn will be sending a detailed ReOpening Toolkit via email to assist you in Phase 3. And Geneva Chamber staff will be out and about dropping off some safety signs to each of you for your re-opening this week.

We are so happy Geneva was busy over Memorial Day weekend. However, we have received many complaints, from visitors, about overflowing garbage in front of shops. If you have a garbage receptacle in front of your business and see that it is full, PLEASE empty. Weekends are usually busy in Geneva and with most of our restaurants continuing to do carry-out, there is bound to be extra being thrown away. We want to keep Geneva clean, desirable and a happy place to visit, but we need your help. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

Paula Schmidt
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce

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WEBINAR (free)

Learning Zoom-PART 3

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 27 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#)

Join Fellow Chamber Member, Wendi Barlow, in a four-part series on using Zoom. Part 3 (May 27-Hosting Meetings); Part 4 (June 3-Your Home Office Setup). Registration for next week will open after this class has ran.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING (\$10)

Tables of Interest is Going Virtual

Hosted by Fox Valley Chambers

May 27 @ 11:30 am

Register [HERE](#) (Registration Required)

Social Media Tips & Tricks, Recycling, Wine & more. Please be logged on by 11:30 am. At 11:35 am directions on how Tables of Interest works will be given. There will be three rounds of networking, ending at 1 pm. \$10 fee for this virtual networking.

WEBINAR (free)

Chamber Chat #3 – Opening Your Business

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 28 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#)

Discuss re-opening with Geneva Chamber President Paula Schmidt and City of Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns. After registering, you will receive a Zoom link before the meeting.

WEBINAR (free)

From Tempest to Treasure: Launching a Power Plan to Rebuild Business Now

Hosted by Geneva Chamber of Commerce

May 29 @ 10 am

Register [HERE](#)

Join member Ellen Huxtable from Advantage Business Concepts as she presents a framework to take stock of assets and capitalize on new opportunities. Step back, look ahead and energize your business!

From Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

On Sunday May 24, Governor JB Pritzker released new industry-specific guidelines to allow for a safe re-opening of businesses as the state progresses into the next phase of the Restore Illinois plan. All four regions of the state are expected to advance to Phase 3 of the plan in the coming days. Phase 3 is expected to see many businesses reopen across the state, and hundreds of thousands of workers back to work. [Click here](#) to read the full announcement.

The following industries are included in Phase 3: retail, offices, manufacturing, barbershops and salons, summer programs, various outdoor recreation activities, bars and restaurants for outdoor dining, and more. During Phase 3, group gatherings of 10 or fewer will now be permitted. A full list of industries as well as corresponding safety guidelines is now available.

While Phase 3 safety guidelines offer new precautions for businesses and residents to take, the state encourages all residents to maintain compliance with ongoing public health guidance - using face coverings, washing hands regularly, and practicing social distancing. Our continued compliance with the latest public health guidelines is essential to our ability to safely reopen our state and to restore Illinois.

Learn more about Phase 3 and the full list of industry-specific guidelines [HERE](#)

In an effort to help businesses prepare to reopen and comply with these new guidelines, DCEO has developed a [downloadable "Phase 3 Business Toolkit."](#) The toolkit includes signage, training checklists and other resources to help business owners and workers implement safety procedures and precautions aligned with public health standards.

By working together, we can keep Illinois moving in the right direction.

From Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA)

Saturday evening, the Illinois Senate and House voted to pass legislation introduced by Sen. Sara Feigenholtz and Rep. Mike Zalewski that will allow restaurants and bars to sell cocktails/mixed drinks to go in Illinois. The bill now heads to Governor's desk for approval.

The IRA commends the General Assembly for passing this pragmatic legislation that will benefit the hospitality industry across the state. We especially thank Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, Rep. Michael Zalewski, Rep. Ann Williams, and Rep. Kelly Cassidy for their advocacy on this issue.

Additionally, the legislation would:

- Authorize the deferral of liquor license fees for a specified period
- Provide that the renewal of the liquor license shall be automatically approved and the license shall be extended for a specified period.
- Provide that a retail licensee shall not be deemed to be delinquent in payment until 30 days after the date on which the region in which the retail licensee is located enters Phase 4 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan as issued on May 5, 2020.

This legislation is the result of a groundswell of support generated by the Cocktails for Hope campaign founded by IRA member Julia Momose of Kumiko, as well as hundreds of IRA members that pushed for this legislative change. [Click Here](#) to read the full bill.

*Please note, this information is from Illinois Restaurant Association and is only for informational purposes.

Sunday, Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) released guidelines for the reopening of outdoor dining across the state during Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan. [SEE ABOVE under DCEO for full information.](#)

The document specifies: the eating and drinking establishments who may operate in this capacity, party size limitations, operational procedures for seating, menus and service standards, and – at the cornerstone – recommended enhanced health and safety measures to protect public well-being.

For the purposes of these guidelines, a dining or drinking area is considered an outdoor dining or drinking area if the area meets any of the following criteria:

1. **Located on the rooftop** of a building or within establishment with retractable roof (should remain open during hours of operation of outdoor dining and/or drinking); or
2. **Outdoor space connected to or located on the site of a restaurant**, grocery store, health or fitness center, hotel, golf club, or other social club with a food establishment license; or
3. **Indoor space where 50% or more of a wall can be removed via the opening of windows, doors, or panels** provided that dining tables are within 8-ft from such opening; or
4. **Any other outdoor dining and drinking areas authorized by local governments** provided that food and drinks are prepared by licensed food or liquor establishments and that proper social distancing of 6-ft between designated customer tables and/or other seating areas is observed and parties are of 6 persons or fewer

****Operators must also look to their local municipalities and health departments for further guidance. ****

Thursday, the IRA, American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), Self Help Federal Credit Union, National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), and The Resurrection Project hosted a webinar to review the SBA's [PPP loan forgiveness application](#) process. Self-Help Federal Credit Union and other PPP experts reviewed common questions on loan forgiveness and best practices.

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar recording.