



**Mayor**  
**Jerome A. Prince**  
City Of Gary, IN



**5-22-20**  
**City of Gary COVID-19 update**

As we open our beaches and parks for the Memorial Day weekend, we can expect large crowds, as usual. We expect this year to be different. Because most outdoor activities in Illinois remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can expect more out-of-state visitors to our beaches.

This will increase our exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Please be absolutely vigilant in using social distancing, especially this long, holiday weekend. We cannot stop people from visiting our beaches, but, as Gary residents, we can be smart about how we interact with each other.

In fighting the spread of the COVID-19 virus, I remind you of the following guidelines:

- If you are 65 years old or older, please continue to stay home as much as possible.
- If you have serious health conditions, including diabetes, lung disease or anything that might compromise your immune system, you are still in jeopardy of contracting COVID-19. You also should stay home as much as possible.
- Everyone older than 2 years of age, should continue to wear masks in public.
- If you are having a family picnic or get-together for the holiday weekend, please do not have more than 25 guests at a time.

These steps may seem difficult, but they are necessary to helping us fight this disease.

### **Houses of Worship**

As I mentioned in yesterday's City of Gary COVID-19 update, we are easing restrictions on houses of worship. That does not mean the virus is no longer a public health threat. I strongly recommend faith leaders continue to offer on-line services.

Houses of worship may open to no more than 100 people at a time, with six-feet of separation between family units and individuals.

You may hold baptisms, weddings, funerals and other important ceremonies, but please limit your in-person gatherings to no more than 25 people at a time.

## **Local Businesses**

Beginning this Sunday, we will allow the reopening of some local businesses to 25 percent of your legal occupancy. You must post that occupancy on all entrances to your business and registers or other points-of-sale.

If you have a business with customer traffic, such as a dining room or a retail shopping area, you may reopen your business with up to 25% of your legal occupancy at one time.

If you run a barber shop, a salon or other personal service business, you may reopen by appointment only. Please remember you may not exceed 25% of your legal occupancy at any time.

If you have a bar with food service, you may reopen according to these terms, but if you have a bar or nightclub or adult entertainment business, you may not reopen yet.

## **City Operations**

If you are a department head or manager with the City of Gary, you will return to your office or facility next Wednesday, May 27.

All other employees will return on June 1. You will be contacted by your supervisor or department head. Some of you may return on staggered schedules.

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## Updates

# of Indiana residents COVID-19 tested:	208,561
# of Indiana residents COVID-19 positive:	30,409
# of Indiana COVID-19 related deaths:	1,791
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 tested:	19,100
# of Lake County residents COVID-19 positive:	3,128
# of Lake County COVID-19 related deaths:	166
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 tested:	3,684
# of Porter County residents COVID-19 positive:	458
# of Porter County COVID-19 related deaths:	19
# of Gary residents COVID-19 positive:	612
# of Gary COVID-19 related deaths:	16

## Conclusion

We want you to enjoy this weekend. We want you to remember all of our men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifices, losing their lives to protect our country and our values.

We want you to be wise in your activities.

Things are improving, and we are very closely monitoring the rate of COVID-19 infections in Gary. But, we must remain vigilant. If we are patient and calm, we will get through this together.

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